

Skandia I

No. 1.

THORS DAGEN DEN 18de NOVEMBER, 1875.

Iste. AARGANG.

Bladet udkommer hveranden Thorsdag—til en Pris af 18 sh. Aaret—9 sh. Halvaaret—4 sh. 6 d. Kvartalet. Enkelt Nummer, 6 d. Betalingen erlægges forskudsvis. Der kan til enhver Tid abonneres hos de faste Agenter eller i Expeditionen. Staaende Advertisementer betales med 2 sh. pr. Tomme for hver Indrykkelse. Tilfældige Bekjendtgjørelser med 3 sh. per Tomme. Fødseler og Ægtevielser 6 d.



OPRUNDEN er nu Dagen
Og naaset er vort Maal,
Vi hilse Fremtids-agen
Med Fremtidsønske's Skaal;
Nu Flaget vi udbrøde
Med Raab fra Kyst til Kyst,
Og kjækt i Rækken træde
For Aandekampens Dyst.

Adskildt fra Fædre-stammen
Med Hjemve i vort Bryst,
Vi flokke nu isammen
Ved Modersmaalets Røst;
Nu Hjertet let kan lønke;
Thi dulmet er vort Savn,
Vi har en Fællestanke
I "Skandia" dit Navn!

Og Enighed giør Kræften
At kjæmpe stadigt frem
For Del af Folkemagten
Her i vort nye Hjem
At vise, at vi springe
Fra Jetteat i Nord,
At Kjæmpekraft vi bringe
Om fjernt fra Fædrejerd.

Ja! lad os værne Sæden,
Som Fædrene os gav,
Det bedste Baand i Fæden,
Det bedste Sværd i Slægt!
O! lad den frodigt skyde
I Nordlandsfolkets Hjem,
Med Tiden vil den yde
Os hundredfold igjen!

Lad os da række Haanden
I Kamp for fælles Sag
Lad trives Broderkæmpe,
Lad falde Kiv og Nag
Lad Folkene forene
Sig nu med nordisk Sang
Af Melodier rene
Med en fælles Tegn.

Saa hilset være Dagen,
Som fødte Liv og Lyst
Og dulmet Længselsklagen
Om fjerne Fædrekyt.
Med Alvor vi nu vende
Vort Blik mod Folkets Trang
Og "Skandia" udvænde
Idag for første Gang.

"For første Gang." Ja, hvor meget ligger der ikke i de faa Ord og hvilken stor Betydning have de ikke for hver især af os, naar vi kaste vort Blik tilbage paa det svundne Liv! Mange, baade Sorgens og Glædens Tanker, samle sig om hine tre Ord og pege betydningsfuldt til et eller andet Vendepunkt i vort Liv. Hvor mangen Synder mod guddommelige og menneskelige Love er det ikke, som ser tilbage med Beklagelse paa hin "første Gang," da han betraadte den gale Vej, og som nu henslæber sit ulse Liv i Statens Fængsler eller plaget af Samvittighedsnag og Selvbefridelse flakker om uden Rist og Ro. Og fremdeles, hvor mange er det ikke, som med Bedrøvelse og Anger ser tilbage paa "den første Gang" han begyndte at nedværdige sin Sjæl og sit Legeme ved et udsævende Liv. Men for mange og, som jeg haaber, for de fleste af os, fremkalde hine Ord ogsaa Glædestanker, Glæde over den "første Gang," da Begyndelsen var gjort til et nyt og bedre Liv, en højere og ædelere Stræben. Ligesom i det enkelte Menneskes Liv, saa fremtræde de ogsaa i Samfundets og Nationens med sin betydningsfulde Klang. Saaledes fremstille de sig ogsaa idag, disse tre smaa Ord, med et tredobbel Alvor, Alvor for Skandinaverne som et Hele, for hver enkelt af Læserne og for Udgiveren isærdeleshed. I Sandhed! vi føle os næsten overvældede af det store Ansvar, som vi herved paalægger os, ligesom ogsaa af vor egen Uværlig-

fyldestgjørende Maade gjøre Regnskab for det store Ansvar, som er os paalagt. Vi haabe derfor at vi for vort eget Vedkommende vil kunne se med Glæde tilbage paa den Dag, da vi for første Gang begyndte vor Virksomhed blandt eder som Udgiver af "Skandia," at vi da kan føle, at vore Bestræbelser ere blevne kronede med Held og at mange af vore Landsmænd have lært noget nyttigt og godt ved Avisens Virksomhed. Vi haabe fremdeles, at hine Ord ville have en glædelig Betydning ogsaa for eder, vore Læsere, at, naar Aar ere hensvundne og "Skandia" har fundet en Plads i eders Hjerte og Hjem, at I da ville kunne se tilbage med Glæde paa den Dag, da Bladet udkom "for første Gang," at I fra den Tid ikke fandt Kvældene saa lange og Arbeids-Dagene saa tunge, og at mange af eder fra den Stund begyndte at se Forholdene og Gjenstandene i eders nye Hjem i sit rette og sande Lys. Dette sidste haabe vi ogsaa vil blive Tilfælde med vore Læsere i Hjemlandene, og at Bladet vil tjene til at forjage de mange Fordomme, falske Ideer og urigtige Indtryk, som man derhjemme har faaet om New-Zealand og Livet herude enten gennem falske Beretninger eller misforstaaede Oplysninger og saaledes give paatænkte Emigranter Anledning til at vælge og bedømme deres fjerne Hjem, allerede förend de forlade sit Fædreland. For Skandinaverne som et Hele haabe vi ogsaa, at "Skandias" Fødselsdag vil blive Begyndelsen til et nyt og friskt Liv mellem de tre Nationer i de mange adspredte Settlementer, og at det vil høre dem til Følelsen af, at de danne en betydningsfuld Del af Samfundet, og at de som saadan bør og kan benytte sig af de Fordele, en saadan Stilling giver dem, paa samme Tid som det vil gjøre dem til nyttige Statsborgere som med Indviagt kan tage Del i Landets Bælgang og Civilisationens Seier over den raa Natur. Vi udtale endeligen det Haab, at "Skandia" maatte blive det stærke Baand, som skal binde Broderfolkene sammen herude, at det skal gaa som en Budstikke fra Grande til Grande, fra Kyst til

EARLY MANAWATU SCANDINAVIANS

(Revised Edition)

bærsk Holmed, saaledes som Naturen bevarer den endog i sine vildeste Stemninger.

Gigantiske, uformelige Klippemasser—veirbidte geologiske Veteraner—furede, søndersplittede og forkullede gennem, jeg ved ikke hvor-mange, Aarhundredes Kamp med Elementerne, lig Jetter forstenede i Slagets vildeste Hede, henstrakte, trodsigt kneisende eller nedad hældende, som om de pludseligen vare blevne stansede i deres Fald paa Slagmarken, nogle fantastisk grupperede, andre ensomme og forladte og atter andre blandede om hverandre i den vildeste Uorden. Det eneste Tegn paa Liv, den eneste Gjenstand, som kan tjene til at fjerne den nedtrykkende Følelse af Forladthed og Odelæggelse, som ufeilbarligen overvælder Iagttageren, ere uhyre Duske af "Snegræs," som hist og her finde en tarvelig Næring blandt de hensmuldrende Kjæmpe-

bare til den menneskelige Følelse, drog lunefuldt gennem det sørgmodige Snegræs og fremkaldte gaadefulde Svar fra de omliggende grimme Fjeldkoller, som om de kolde Gubber sukkede utaalmodigt over, at Solguden saalænge skjulte sit varmtsmilende Ansigt.

Pludseligen brød den alt-beseirende Sol frem. Netop som dens første Straaler oplyste Scenen, rullede der frem af en huleagtig Fordybning, gnavet af Tidens Tand i et uhyre Klippestrykke af metamorfisk Lerskifer—(some mine Venner Geologerne behøve at kalde det)—en Mand.

En ung Mand. Saa meget var öiensynligt ved første Blik. Men enten Naturen havde begunstiget ham med smukke eller hæslige Ansigtstræk vilde have været vanskeligt at sige. Thi en Skov af tussæt og ukæmmet Haar umuliggjorde ethvert Forsøg paa nærmere at beskrive denne

men meget betegnende Skuldertræk og begyndte strax at sammenrulle sine Uldtæpper i en Byldt, som den Indviede kjender under Navn af en "Hestekrave—swag."†

Hans næste Handling var at udhale fra Gjemmerne i sin begrænsede Garderobe en Kniv, en Eske med Fyrstikker, en Kage Tobak og en kort Merskumpibe, sort nok til at fremkalde "gamle Smøgeres" Misundelse og "soused" nok til at afholde Begyndere fra al videre Studium af den Nicotinske Kunst. Efterat have fyldt og tændt den, skuldrede han igjen sin "swag" og med sit Ansigt vendt mod Nord fulgte han den veltraadte

* "Moleskins Unævnelige"—Buxer af "engelsk Skind."

† SWAG.—Slangudtryk taget fra det engelske Verbum "to swag"—at hænge, dingle, og betegner en Byrde af ethvert Slags. Er mest brugt om den Byrde, som en Omvandrende bærer paa sine Skuldre.

THE MANAWATU LOCATIONS

The map illustrates the Manawatu region, highlighting its geographical features and infrastructure. Key locations include:

- Towns and Settlements:** Wanganui, Marton, Feilding, Palmerston North, Foxton, Levin, Otaki, Woodville, Pahiatua, and Eketahuna.
- Rivers:** Rangitikei R., Manawatu R., Oroua R., Whangape R., and Turakina R.
- Topography:** Shaded areas represent higher elevations, with specific peaks marked (e.g., 1898, 3584, 2518, 2920, 5080).
- Infrastructure:** Railways are shown as solid lines with cross-ticks, and main roads as dashed lines.
- Directions:** Arrows indicate directions to New Plymouth, Auckland, Gisborne, Masterton, and Wellington.

SCALE OF MILES

0 10 20

RAILWAYS **MAIN ROADS**

Opposite: This large picnic group poses proudly beneath the Danish flag somewhere in the vicinity of Palmerston North. The large number of children present suggests that these are the grandchildren of the 1870s immigrants and that the photo was, therefore, probably taken in the early 1900s. It appears to have been taken on the same occasion as that shown on page 36 of *Mosquitoes & Sawdust*. That photo included architect L.G. West, who died in 1919. (Photo: Stuart Clausen, Longburn)

EARLY MANAWATU SCANDINAVIANS

(Skandia I)

Revised Edition



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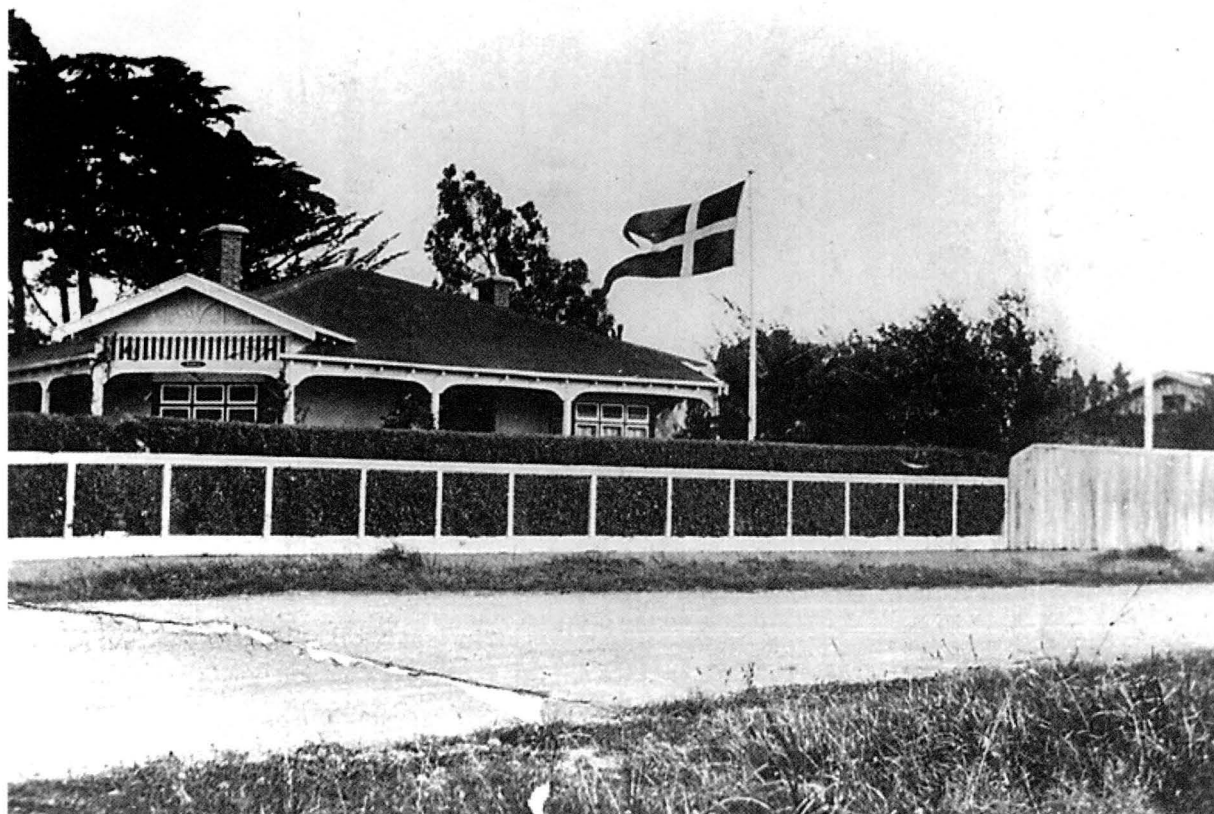
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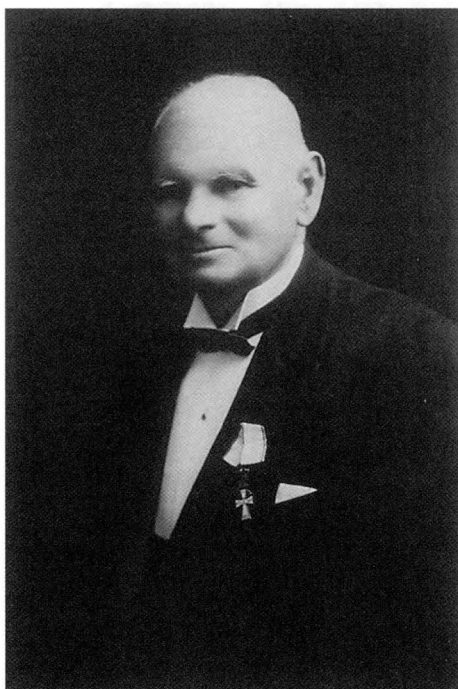
Scandinavian Gatherings in early Manawatu

With the decision to add an index to the 1999 revised edition of this book came extra pages at the front that required decoration. As the Scandinavian Club of the Manawatu is to host the 2001 Scandinavian Gathering, and as new photos of similar historic significance have become available since the publication in 1995 of *Mosquitoes & Sawdust: a history of Scandinavians in early Palmerston North & surrounding districts (Skandia II)*, the Scandinavian gathering theme seemed appropriate. The photos in this section then are from the Clausen and Dahl family collections. For further information on these families see pages 33-4 of this book and pages 104-5 of *Mosquitoes & Sawdust*, respectively. Both these families were of Danish origin. The impact of Danes upon the Palmerston North area is evidenced by the work and influence from 1866 of people such as former Danish Prime Minister, Bishop Monrad and his family, and in the twentieth century by the efforts of others such as the Clausens and Dahls. Also, lawyer-turned-historian, George C. Petersen (see pp. 63-4) and novelist Yvonne du Fresne (pp. 44-5) have contributed significantly to the printed record of Danes in the region, while the highly visible Tararua Wind Farm is also creating its own Manawatu-Denmark relationship.

Between these two phases in Palmerston North's Scandinavian history, however, came the turn of the Norwegians to predominate for a time. The Norwegian, Norwegian-Swedish and Swedish couples who settled here in 1871 were prominent in terms of their early success as bush settlers. Meanwhile a number of the Danish immigrants to the area at the same time, mostly single men, preferred not to settle here immediately or in many cases not at all. In part the problem was because the Danes were largely recruited from towns rather than rural areas as occurred with the others. Of the greatest significance and influence, though, were the three Norwegian owners of the large sawmilling and flourmilling firm, Richter, Nannestad & Co. In its day this firm was Palmerston North's largest employer and especially attracted Northern European settlers who needed paid work - and appreciated the owners' multi-lingual skills - after the local Public Works schemes ended in 1876. The Norwegian trio included the builder of Caccia Birch House (Jacob Nannestad), a brother of Norway's then Prime Minister (Johan Richter) and a Mayor of Palmerston North (Frits Jenssen). - **Val Burr, President, Scandinavian Club of the Manawatu, July 1999.**



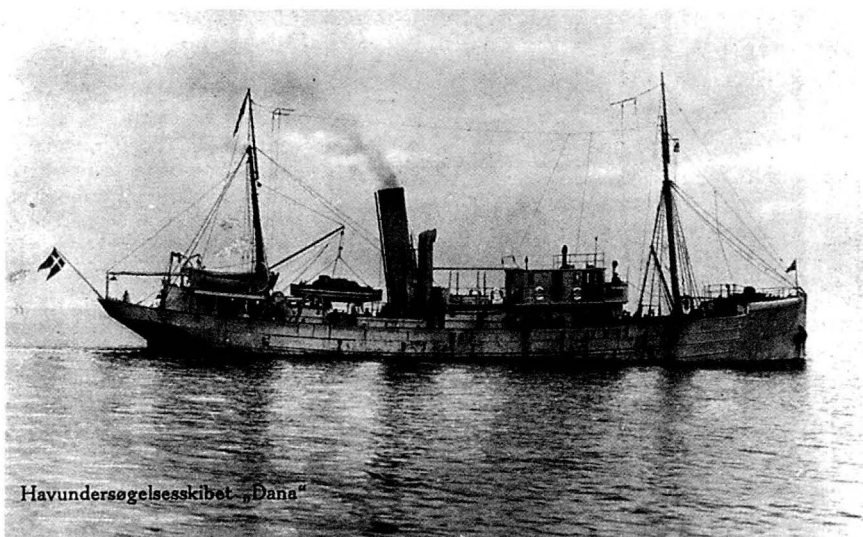
Above: Over the years Palmerston North has been home to three Danish vice-consuls. These were Charles Dahl (1919-1929), Leslie Dahl (1932-1934) and George C. Petersen (1948-1978). This photo shows the Danish flag flying over Charles Dahl's home, called *Dania*, then the Danish Vice Consulate. The house still exists at 48 Fitchett Street, on the corner of Fitchett and Ward Streets. For more information on Danish vice-consuls in Palmerston North, see *Mosquitoes & Sawdust*, page 103. (Photo: Val Burr, original owned by Bill Perry, Mt. Wellington, Auckland.)



Above left: Charles Dahl with his 'Ridder af Dannebrog' award, presented in 1926. (Photo: Val Burr, original owned by Jenny Swain, Taupo). **Above right:** The Clausen family around 1920, (from left) Christian, Arthur, Annie (du Fresne) and Fred. At various times both Christian and Arthur served as Palmerston North Borough Councillors, while Annie became the grandmother of novelist Yvonne du Fresne. (Photo: Stuart Clausen, Longburn)



One of the memorable activities in the latter stages of Charles Dahl's life (he died in August 1929) was the visit of officers from the Danish ocean research vessel, *Havundersøgelsesskibet Dana*. The reverse of the group photo (**left**) indicates that it included "Some of the *Dana* party: Professor Schmidt and Mrs Schmidt at front of Oscar. Mr Mau, wireless expert, rest of party are some of our (Palmerston North) Danes." After their visit, John Schmidt of the *Dana* party sent the Dahls a postcard of the ship (**lower left**). This is dated 18 January 1929 and was posted in Wellington. On the reverse, Schmidt sent farewell greetings to Charles Dahl, his wife and all their other friends in Palmerston North, and thanked them for their hospitality and good company. (Photos: Val Burr, originals owned by Bill Perry, Mt. Wellington, Auckland.)



Havundersøgelsesskibet „Dana“



Above: The largest known gathering of Scandinavians in Palmerston North to date, was a get-together that occurred on 14 April 1920. This gathering celebrated the restoration of North Slesvig (Schleswig) from Germany to Denmark, following a vote to that effect by its inhabitants. The event attracted around 400 Danish settlers and descendants of Danes from around New Zealand, as well as invited guests. *Mosquitoes & Sawdust*, p. 144, shows another photo of the gathering. Both photos (by Andersons, local photographers of Norwegian descent) were taken from the back of the Produce Hall at the Palmerston North Showgrounds. The official party was at the far end of the hall. Speculation as to the purpose of the small table in the foreground of this photo includes the possibility that this was where well-wishers signed a booklet (called an 'address') that was later forwarded to King Christian X of Denmark. Newspapers reported that by then it contained around 700 signatures.

The Danish Royal Archives advises that it holds this address [ref: Kongehusarkivet, adresser til kongen, Fol. reg. 158]. However, as documents received by the Danish Royal House in and after 1912 are considered the private property of the Royal family, they are not accessible to the public, nor able to be copied, without Queen Margrethe II's permission. We must, therefore, rely on their archivist's detailed description of the document. Entitled *To His Majesty King Christian X, From Danish Men and Women in New Zealand*, the document contains a photo of the "Danish celebration on the occasion of the reunion of Slesvig with Denmark. Palmerston North, New Zealand, April 1920." The watercolour artwork in the margins of the cover and title page, is signed by W.J. Thompson, Palmerston North, the margins of the title page containing motifs from nature and a group of Maori in a canoe. The committee members also signed this page. Next are seven pages containing the names, occupations and addresses of the signatories, as well as more artwork.

A photo of the committee that organised the celebration appears in *Mosquitoes & Sawdust*, p. 146. Charles Dahl, who chaired this committee and Arthur Clausen, its secretary, are pictured elsewhere in this insert.



The **lower photo** shows the young women from the Danish community who served as waitresses at the gathering. They wore red sashes over their white dresses, while all present at the function wore red and white rosettes. At present none of these women are identified. (Photos: Stuart Clausen, Longburn. Danish information: Henrik Stissing Jensen, Danish Royal Archives [Statens Arkiver Rigsarkivet], to Kristian Tybjerg, Hirtshals, Denmark, 1/7/1999. Kristian Tybjerg to Val Burr, 5/7/1999. Nis B. Maybom, Danish Royal Archives, to Val Burr, 17/7/1999.)

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“Not to know what happened before we were born, is to remain forever a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors” — Cicero



THE COVER

On the 18th November 1875 “Skandia”, a Danish-Norwegian newspaper was produced in Palmerston North. The Editor was Hjalmar Graff, a book seller. It is generally believed that this was the one and only issue of Skandia. Because copies of Palmerston North’s earliest newspapers were lost in a fire little is known about them, therefore it is not impossible that other issues may be found in Scandinavia. For many years it was thought that no copy of “Skandia” had remained in existence but in the 1950’s a copy was found at a book shop or auction in Wellington and was presented by the finder to The Manawatu Evening Standard, who in turn gave it to the Palmerston North City Council.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many people. Our sincere thanks must first go to:

- all the contributors who dug deep in their family archives.
- to the Hawke's Bay Scandinavian Club who published "Links With The Past" in 1989, setting such a high standard and good example.
- the 1990 Commission who generously made this booklet possible.
- Mac Larsen who inspired us all, and continues to do so even after his death.
- Margaret Scott of Palmerston North Girls High School.
- Hans-Marius Troseid, Norway for valuable information.
- Ian Matheson, City Archivist, for his encouragement.

The editor's pencil was used sparingly throughout. Everything of general interest has been included, however, passages felt to be purely of family interest were omitted.

Many sources have been consulted and much scholarly work done but we cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies. Bibliography has largely been left out to save space (except in a few cases to show depth of research).

We realise that this little booklet is only the tip of the Scandinavian mound. Much has been uncovered — but much more is still buried in the Manawatu soil and forest waiting to be found.

Work on Volume II has already begun, and please, dear reader, if you have anything of interest sharpen your pencil and contact the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu.

The Editor

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INTRODUCTION

120 years ago the Manawatu was hardly an attractive sight for new settlers. The dense primeval forest stretched from the Ruahine Ranges right to the marshland and sand dunes by the sea. The biggest natural clearing, Papaioea, was scrub-covered and waterlogged and infested with hungry mosquitoes. Here, early 1871 stood a four-roomed hotel and two surveyors' huts plus a store in process of being built. This was the scene that greeted the first Scandinavian settlers.

For the next three years Palmerston North was largely a Scandinavian settlement — and most of these settlers had certain characteristics in common: working class background, lack of capital, Lutheran Church membership, seven years of elementary schooling, belief in hard work and almost an obsession with “clearing the land” and farming their own plot (a luxury they had been denied for centuries in their own homelands).

There may well be a certain sameness about the stories in this book. They are about men and women struggling hard to make a living with poverty and disaster never far away. Here is very little leisure. There are no journals, letters, diaries to cast further light on our characters. There was just no time to indulge in such activities. But these stories are deeply moving for what can be read between the lines.

AND WHY DID THEY COME?

Let us look at the first wave of the Scandinavian immigrants for a moment, the Norwegians:

— why did so many come to the Manawatu?

— why from Odalen (South Odal)?

— why just in the early 1870's?

A look at the census figures from South Odal (forest district, 60km. N.E. of Oslo) will give part of the explanation:

Years	1815	1865	1875
Pop.	3450	7118	6834

In this district population more than doubled in 50 years. Main income was from agriculture but the soil was poor and no further farmland could be wrested from the forest. Records tell us further that in the years 1871-73 a total of 53 people left for New Zealand from this poor rural community.

Up to 1870 virtually all emigration had been directed to USA. It was particularly heavy in the late '60s after the end of the Civil War and population declined in virtually every district in Norway.

Julius Vogel and his land settlement policy changed some of the direction of the emigration (he became Minister of Finance in the Fox government in '69). As early as August 1870 his two agents, Dr Featherstone and Dillon Bell, were in Christiania (Oslo) looking for settlers/forest workers. Since they did not speak the language the actual recruiting was done by a travel firm, Winge & Co (still operating in Oslo). It was their agent who must have appeared in South Odal, one Sunday in September after church and told the church goers about:

— free land

— and free passage to New Zealand (so the future immigrants understood it — and prospects, therefore, appeared better than going to America).

But why Manawatu? There had indeed been a tug of war between several provinces (including Otago and Taranaki) over the new settlers. But Wellington won, partly because of the proposed railway and all the bush felling this implied, partly because the settlers themselves had indicated a preference for the Wellington Province.

And so they came, the first wave, 15 February 1871 trudging all the way from Foxton, caked with Kairanga mud, their waggons piled high with stores, tools and small children.

— Johan Bonnevie

ANDREW GUSTAV SEABURY

One of the Scandinavians who established themselves in the Manawatu prior to Vogel's Immigration Scheme was Captain Andrew Seabury, Master Mariner, who became the pilot for the Port of Foxton around 1870.

Born Anders Gustaf Sjöberg, he was the son of a Swedish ship's captain and his wife. According to family tradition, he was born on board his father's ship in Uppsala Harbour around 1837. Aminoff, in the book 'Svenskarna I Nya Zeeland', gives his birthdate as 25th May 1840, and the place as being some distance away in Torslunda Parish, Kalmar, Sweden, although this may be where his birth was registered. His Naturalisation papers also gives his place of birth as Kalmar. As with so many others, Andrew found it more practical to 'Anglicise' both his own name, and also apparently those of his parents, known now as Andrew and Christina, although Aminoff gives these as Peter Andersson and his wife Lena Stina, nee Persdotter.

Young Andrew received a certain amount of his schooling ashore, but was back at sea by the time he was ten years old, sailing to America where he later joined the American Navy. He is thought to have joined the British Navy at around the time of the 1857 Indian Mutiny, serving throughout that period and following the sea for some time afterward. He was registered as a seaman at the Seaman's House at Kalmar, Sweden as early as 7th April 1856 and by the age of twenty one, was in command of a merchant ship, taking Irish emigrants from Liverpool to New York.

Andrew is believed to have arrived in Wellington between 1861 and 1863, (Aminoff says 1863) spending several years on coastal vessels before being appointed Assistant Pilot at Wanganui, a position he held for seven years. His obituary suggests that he became Pilot at Foxton in 1870, however an existing Pilot's Licence is dated 11th February 1875, although this may be a renewal of his licence. He received a salary of £150, plus the use of a house situated in the sandhills near the Manawatu Heads. The Assistant Pilot and the boatman lived in a cottage nearby. Unfortunately the local Maori were of the opinion that the site was not paid for and after taking food and clothing from the houses, camped around them for several days until an interpreter arrived from Wellington, and enabled both parties to communicate. When it became established that the land was in fact paid for, the would-be claimants and the occupants became good friends.

Part of Captain Seabury's job was to keep the river clean for shipping as far upstream as Paiake, the town site abandoned in favour of Foxton some years earlier. Every flood brought debris downstream and the resulting snags were dangerous to vessels which commuted on the river.

Seabury was Naturalised at Foxton on 17th September 1874 (aged 36) and married Mary Elizabeth Hollow, at Foxton on 4th March 1876 (aged 35). Her family had come from Cornwall and settled in Foxton. Their only child (by adoption), Christina, married Richard Easton, a well known builder in Foxton, and lived all her life in the town. The Captain finally retired in 1903, after serving as Foxton's Pilot for 33 years. He died at Foxton on 25th April 1909 after a brief illness. His wife survived him by almost forty years until her death on 22nd April 1948 aged 91. His role as a notable early resident of Foxton, is recalled by the name Seabury Avenue, bestowed on the main thoroughfare through Foxton Beach.

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Manawatu Evening Standard, 29/4/1909, Obituary.

Compiled by Val. Burr.



Captain Seabury and the signal staff at the Manawatu River Heads cir. 1900. At low tide the 4 balls would be on the ground to be gradually raised one by one as the tide came in. The middle arm was moveable and indicated to ships where the main river channel was. The triangular beacon is one of 14 pairs which were on the river banks between the Heads and the Foxton Port.

Photo courtesy Mr. W. E. Signal.

ANDREW JONSON

Andrew Jonson was born Anders Severin Jonsson on 8th October 1840, in Falkenberg Parish, Halland, Sweden. He was put to work at the age of 10, and at 12 went to sea on a small Swedish sailing vessel which took him around the Baltic and North Seas, as far as Hull and Hartlepool in England. Finally he deserted the ship in the latter port and took a place as an able seaman aboard the "City of Agra" bound for Calcutta. However, as he didn't understand the language of the "Yankee" officers, he and three others deserted several days before departure. Next morning he found himself with no food and only the clothes he stood up in, under a hedge in a mid-winter snow storm. He was soon caught and charged, but in the meantime the ship sailed, with his chest of clothes still aboard. Fortunately its departure allowed him to regain his freedom.

He then joined a Danish schooner bound for Lisbon. En route they became involved in rescuing the crew of a water-logged English ship. When the Danish ship eventually returned to Hartlepool he again ran away and spent the next eighteen months serving in colliers around the Baltic and North Seas. On one trip, in a heavy mid-winter gale in the North Sea, en route from Goteborg Sweden to England, the deck cargo of timber broke loose killing a man and tipping the ship until its masts were under water. Eventually they were found by a passing ship, bound for London, where they remained for two months during which time their finger and toe nails fell off as a result of the intense cold they had experienced.

Jonson subsequently traded around the Mediterranean and Black Seas, then after a period ashore learning shipwrighting, sailed to America, visiting the ports of Quebec, Montreal, Havana and Rio de Janeiro. At the former port they lost the entire crew except for the Captain and Jonson. Then at Rio de Janeiro the new crew mutinied and were paid off after a big fight. During the return voyage from Ceylon to London, laden with rice, they lost two men with cholera and after rounding the Cape of Good Hope, struck a heavy storm and lost the main top mast. Jonson had to make a new one, working part of the time almost under water. Unfortunately the adze he was using, slipped and went through his boot, almost severing all five toes. Loss of blood, poor food and lack of medical attention also resulted in him being temporarily blinded. Eventually he made another trip to the Mediterranean and during this visit saw the catacombs of Rome and Cleopatra's Needle, before its relocation in London.

In 1860 Jonson married Harriett Stewart in London and when he was 25 the family sailed for New Zealand on the "Electra", arriving in Wellington on 16 October 1866. They settled in Foxton the same year, where he started cabinetmaking in a small way, later establishing a small store in Main Street, Foxton, where he operated a cabinetmaking and undertaking business.

The arrival of Manawatu's Scandinavian immigrants under the Vogel Public Works Scheme in 1871 saw a new, very vital role for Jonson. The first batch, from the "Celaeno", arrived at Foxton on the coastal ship 'Luna' on 14th February 1871. The presence of two fellow Scandinavians, namely Jonson and the harbour Pilot, Seabury, were no doubt a great comfort to these immigrants. Two of the women in the party were soon to give birth and A Follett Halcombe, the Provincial Secretary, who was accompanying the party, made arrangements with Jonson to provide accommodation for the two women and Mr Batten Smith (presumably of Foxton), was to provide medical attention. The subsequent payment to Jonson was £7/5/- (about four and a half weeks worth), with a further £4/4/- to Batten Smith.

Jonson was appointed Agent for the Scandinavian community in Palmerston North, and set up a store in the town, at a time when its only hotel was that of Messrs Cole and Stanley. He states in his memoirs that his store opened a few months before that of George Snelson, whose store opened in early 1871. He commuted between both towns when only a track existed and at times this was so bad that he took a day to travel between Oroua Bridge (Rangiotu) and Palmerston North. Such conditions and floods led to his building a boat capable of carrying two tons and he transported his goods up river to near Palmerston North, at which point he would complete the journey by carrying goods on his back. His only mishap was on what became his final trip back to Foxton, when one of his three passengers, the aforementioned A.F. Halcombe, offered to steer the boat and hit a snag, which capsized it. One passenger was killed, while the other two made it to shore. Jonson and his two employees clung to the upturned boat for two hours before being rescued by Maoris.

Following the accident Jonson gave up business in Palmerston North and began a sash and door company in Foxton. At about the same time he was asked to take shares with three others in a steamer for sale in Wellington. After a much troubled voyage to Foxton, its first assignment was conveying sheep from one side of the river to the other, but the boat almost capsized when the sheep rushed to one side. This mishap caused all the sheep to fall into the river, and convinced Jonson that it was not a suitable vessel for river work so he sold his share at a loss. He later became involved in transporting flax from the Whirokino swamps to Foxton for processing, building the steam launch "Ivy" in 1888, in his yard behind the Family Hotel in Main Street, Foxton. His partner was Samuel Howan. Jonson was also Foxton's undertaker, borrowing the appropriately coloured horse Blackie to pull the hearse. Blackie normally shunted coal trucks around the station yard. In 1898 he replaced his dray hearse, with a four-wheeled buggy. His shop, the Athenaeum Store served as a meeting place, and provided a venue for entertainers, and Town Board meetings in the 1880s. He later moved his business to Avenue Road.

Jonson has been credited with building the first house at Foxton Beach and foreseeing the possibilities of the Manawatu Heads as the site for a sanatorium. In 1899 he unsuccessfully petitioned the Railways for a rail link to Foxton Beach. He was also a ranger for the Wellington Acclimatisation Society at that time.

Harriett Jonson died at Foxton on 22nd April 1874, leaving Andrew with two daughters, Ada and Lynda, and a son, Arthur Sylvester. He married Eliza Salter at Foxton on 29th July 1875, the union producing two sons, Andrew George and Charlie. Charlie was later adopted by the Hood family but the reason is unknown. His third marriage was to Elizabeth Ann Govier at Foxton on 26th October 1887 but they had no offspring. Jonson was naturalised at Foxton on 27th February 1900, but still had to declare himself an Alien in the 1917 Alien Register during World War I. He died at Foxton on 17th October 1917, aged 77 years and was survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Also noteworthy is the purchase Jonson made in about 1881, of salvaged items from the "Hydrabad" wreck at Waitarere, including the figurehead which for many years decorated the front garden of the Jonsons' Avenue Road home in Foxton. A family story says that he willed it to the Auckland Museum, but unfortunately his wife apparently would not part with it. The Navy tried to buy it in 1929, but transport arrangements were not completed. Finally in 1933, Mrs Jonson reputedly chopped it up for firewood - a sad end to a piece of local memorabilia.

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Compiled by Val A Burr

FOOTNOTE: *Andrew Jonson's Advertisement appears on Back Cover of this book.*

"VALHALLA"

PIONEERING AT KARERE

This is part of an article written by Johannes Callesen shortly before he died 4.4.63 aged 80.

"My father and mother were natives of Slesvig, a province of Denmark. They came to New Zealand some 14 years before I was born. Why did they come here? - The war of 1864 explains this.

Bismark, German Chancellor, brought Austria and Prussia into war with Denmark. Object being, to seize two provinces by force of arms. Denmark under premiership of Bishop Monrad went to England for help which was refused. Queen Victoria, with her German husband, was openly blamed for this. Two provinces became German. Young men must either serve the Germans or leave. My father left.

In Denmark, a defeated country, things were not good. Bishop Monrad suffering the fate of all defeated leaders became depressed and with his family had migrated to New Zealand. In Copenhagen my father fell in with several young men who were going out to join him. Anything to get away, and bought a ticket to New Zealand. They joined the sailing ship 'Ballarat' in London for a three months journey to New Zealand landing in Auckland. From Auckland he went goldmining at Lyell and then to New Plymouth. He worked round Taranaki on a survey party for a year or so; then decided to join up with Bishop Monrad at Karere in 1868. One can imagine the sympathy between an ex-Prime Minister and the refugee workman.

My father walked from Wanganui through a bush track to Karere. He could not visualise that 60 years later his grandson would travel on a paved highway to New Plymouth in a high powered car to marry the grand-daughter of a pioneer family.

When father joined the Monrad family they evidently saw his worth and took the best way to keep him as a neighbour by selling him 36 acres, at 25/- per acre, of their holding where our homestead now stands. The Monrad family came up the Manawatu from Foxton by Maori canoe. Imagine starting a home under such conditions with no roads, no markets. By slow degrees food could be grown and animals acquired. Prior to European entry the Maori people must have had a meagre existence. One can imagine the value they would put on eels, fish and game birds when they could catch them. The usual rule with newcomers was to work for other people who had come with some means or for the State on rail and road making.

My mother and eldest sister arrived in Wellington on August 1st 1872 by the barque 'Halcione'. The total cost from London for mother and child was £21. Father had been in New Zealand six years. First home was a slab hut where the hay shed now is. Within ten years a frame house was built on the site of the present homestead. I was born there in 1882. By about this time the farm had expanded to 60 acres. I cannot

remember any bush, but logs and stumps are among my earliest memories. Log fires were a yearly scene and to see the hills ablaze was a great sight. Obviously transport had to come before any real progress could be made. 1876 saw the railway running to Foxton.

Life was lived at a much slower tempo. Farm wages before World War I, were rarely more than £1 per week. Day labour rarely fetched more than 1/- to 1/6 per hour. A State primary school was opened first at Longburn but on account of distance another was later opened at Jackeytown. The school at Longburn was first called Karere and was situated over the railway opposite the K.D.C. Later it was shifted to its present site. My elder sister attended the Karere School, but on account of distance we three younger ones went to Jackeytown. I must say that the men who taught there did a good job.

It is interesting to note that the Maori people ever since the arrival of white people, say about 1860, were friendly. But 1869 the Waikato Hau Hau were threatening and Monrad was advised to move to Wellington. (This refers to Titokowaru's Campaign in South Taranaki, see James Bellich "I shall not die" 1989 - posed no threat to this region). My father volunteered to stay on the Monrad farm. Happily no Maoris came but it has always seemed very wrong that anyone should have been asked to stay, for if the natives had come it could have done no good. My early memories of Maoris was of seeing them prodding for eels in the lagoon. Mother said that Maori women would flatten their noses against the windows to look in. I cannot remember any Maori houses here but there was a cemetery on Mr Plew's farm of say 2 acres. No trace now remains. Burnt stones indicate where native ovens had been built but there were no Maori settlements closer than Awapuni or Rangiotu. My father must have had an unenviable time alone in the Monrad homestead when the family left. He told us that on one occasion he heard what he thought was footsteps coming upstairs, but it turned out to be a pet lamb which also was lonely. He also said that on one occasion he shot a wild duck and a tame pig followed the canoe when he went to pick it up.

The building of the Manawatu railway in the late 1800s was the first great step forward because it permitted the building of the Longburn freezing works, with access to Wellington port. Shipment of wool to port and other produce to a good market made all the difference. Land was gradually cleared and crops could be grown."

But what was the author of this biography like?

Nancy Callesen has this to say about her father-in-law.

"Pop" was a very private broad shouldered, tall man who stood at 6'4". He was a great reader and had at least two books lying open at one time. At the age of seven years he went to Tiakitahuna School.

On leaving he worked at home, until the Palmerston North Boys High School opened in 1902, where he was the oldest boy on enrolment day. In one year he accomplished what the average student would do in three years. His subjects included

LUDOLPH GEORG WEST

Ludolph Georg West was born in 1846 at the island of Falster and came to New Zealand in 1868, two years after the Monrad family. He had a degree in agriculture and forestry from a college in Copenhagen. He arrived in Lyttelton on the ship "Motoaka" and went north to visit his brother, who, at that time had a farm on the other side of the Manawatu River. He helped him and also worked for the Monrads, and in November 1868 he was amongst the party of settlers who fled the Upper Manawatu when it was said the Maori chief Titikowaru and the Hau Haus were coming down to declare war in Manawatu. He joined the cavalry volunteers until the threat of war was over in 1869.

Ludolph continued to live in Manawatu and is mentioned in Olga Monrad's diary as being a dinner guest at their home several times. In 1886 he founded a firm for Architectural Design as well as being an agent for Fire and General Insurance, and a Valuer. His office was situated in Rangitikei Street not far from the Square. He was very much in demand as an architect and erected many of the houses and shops in Palmerston North around the turn of the century. He erected the Forester's Hall, the Phoenix Hotel, rebuilt the Theatre Royal, the Bon Marche, Ross and Sanford's premises, Mr Hawkins' office, Mr C.E. Waldegrave residence and saleyards in Rangitikei Street. The saleyards were built for Matthew Henry and were circular with the sheep pens surrounding the yard. The new design easily kept the sheep in order on the busiest of sale days. Ludolph also built No 77 Te Awe Awe Street (with tower), but his best known building is the Caccia Birch house which was built in 1893 for the Nannestad family. Jacob Nannestad was a Norwegian sawmiller who was part owner in the firm Richter, Nannestad and Jenssen.

Apart from being an architect Mr West was also very active in the Order of Freemasons and was attached to the Manawatu Kilwinning Lodge. He was also a Forester and belonged to Court Manawatu No 5655. He was a member of the Wanganui Hospital Board, and Palmerston North Borough Councillor for eight years before being Mayor 1886-87.

Bishop Monrad wrote in a letter to his daughter in 1868 that the ladies didn't like the face of L.G. West. However in 1878 he married Maria Ann Bannister and they had 9 children. Maria Ann died in 1891 and three years later he married Alice Greenwood with whom he had a son and a daughter.

Ludolph West's oldest son Ernst married in 1914 to a daughter of the local member of Parliament, Mr David Buick, a name we all know from Buick Crescent. They had a big wedding in All Saints Church with a long write-up in the paper. Best man was Mr Wynn West, who at that time was 19 years old. The first World War had just been declared and Wynn volunteered for an expeditionary force and was sent to camp at Awapuni. He developed pneumonia and pleurisy there, and was sent to hospital, but died on the 24th August 1914.

Geography, Euclid (Geometry), Latin and English. He regretted not having a University Education as he wanted to be a surgeon or bridge builder.

He had built "Valhalla" homestead, completed 2nd November 1934, a superb residence of four and a half thousand square feet - built of heart rimu. Every evening he chalk-marked the pieces of timber not up to his satisfaction and had them removed by the builders next day.

"Pop" was a wonderful father-in-law to me and as a family we were privileged to have him, live in a flat, in the grounds of his beloved "Valhalla" for the last two years of his life.

Johannes was highly esteemed by his friends. His was a long life well spent and Karere is a better place for his contribution to many community interests.

I'm sure he gained a fair measure of contentment from his labours, honestly and industrially achieved; from the love, affection and respect of his family and social circle. All who knew him recognised his uprightness in dealing, and steadfastness of purpose.

The fifth generation are now living at "Valhalla", which has grown from the original 30 acres to now include the properties of "Ballarat", "Halcione" and "Valkyrie".

We honour our forebears and appreciate the foundation they laid for us and we will endeavour to carry on the family tradition.

Contributed by Nancy M Callesen
1990

This is to Certify that <u>Johannes Callesen</u> PASSED EXAMINATION as under:—	
Passed the <u>First Standard</u> <u>Sept 18th 1891</u> at <u>Jackeytown</u> School, in the Education District of <u>Wanganui</u> Signed: <u>Edmund Hy Rogers</u>	Passed the <u>Fourth Standard</u> <u>Sept 14 1894</u> at <u>Jackeytown</u> School, in the Education District of <u>Wanganui</u> Signed: <u>Edmund Hy Rogers</u>
Passed the <u>Second Standard</u> <u>Sept 5th 1892</u> at <u>Jackeytown</u> School, in the Education District of <u>Wanganui</u> Signed: <u>Edmund Hy Rogers</u>	Passed the <u>Fifth Standard</u> <u>Aug 21 1896</u> at <u>Jackeytown</u> School, in the Education District of <u>Wanganui</u> Signed: <u>J.R. Nairn</u>
Passed the <u>Third Standard</u> <u>Sept 1st 1893</u> at <u>Jackeytown</u> School, in the Education District of <u>Wanganui</u> Signed: <u>Edmund Hy Rogers</u>	Passed the <u>Sixth Standard</u> <u>Aug 19 1897</u> at <u>Jackeytown</u> School, in the Education District of <u>Wanganui</u> Signed: <u>J.R. Nairn</u>

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The West family lived in Fitzherbert Street, as it was called at that time, but in 1905 shifted to College Street where Ludolph West designed and built a house he lived in till his death in 1919. A collection of Ludolph's drawings are held at the Palmerston North Public Library.

Contributed by Bodil Petersen



EARLY SETTLERS'S PICNIC HELD AT POLO GROUNDS

(Near the present Hokowhitu Golf Course)

March 1896 "The old settlers enjoyed themselves amazingly, declaring that they felt as young as they did when they arrived in the district. One old settler who had not been on the grounds for over 20 years, said with the exception of his feet, which were a little bit gone, he felt as young as when he assisted to survey the ground, which was a swamp. -- Mr Linton, in addressing the gathering, said the English race were capable of absorbing a number of races, and it appeared to him that the various nationalities were so well absorbed that it was impossible to tell who was Scandinavian, Scottish or English. --Mr Linton then referred to the arrival of the Scandinavians in this district, and said they had surmounted more difficulties than any body of men ever did in New Zealand. They were cast here in a district without roads or civilization, in addition to which they were not conversant with the English language, but in spite of all they had prospered. -- Mr West, in replying on behalf of the Scandinavians, thanked Mr Linton for his kind remarks concerning them. He further stated it was from the Scandinavian population of this town that the idea emanated of holding a gathering to celebrate the early settlement in this district. He was proud to see the affair brought to such a successful termination. He thanked all who had assisted. He had been a resident of the Manawatu for about 28 years and during that time he had never found any proposal meet with better success than the picnic they had held that day".

Extracts from old newspaper cuttings in Mrs Snelson's Scrap Book held at Palmerston North Library

Contributed by Valda Nielsen

ANDERS HANSEN IHLE
— A man of many parts
"I REMEMBER GRANDAD"

Mrs Gladys Lazarus of 2/122 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North does indeed remember her grandfather. She is now 88 years of age and confined to her wheelchair, but her eyes sparkle when she talks about her early childhood:-

"Grandfather looked very, very old to me. He had a huge white beard right down to his waist and deep blue eyes. I can see him in his chair, sitting outside in the warm winter sun, his back against the kitchen wall. He wore a tweedy looking charcoal grey suit with a waistcoat and a big heavy chain across his stomach".

He was always kind to me. Perhaps he even spoilt me for he gave me half-a-crown every time I visited their house in Cook Street. And what riches that was!!

Grandmother was very stout, decidedly so, and with a double chin. She seemed to be part of a big armchair - and I believe her eight girls waited on her hand and foot. She died in her sleep. Shortly after that Grandad went to live with his youngest daughter, Mrs Hampson, in Campbell Street.

We will now let Mr Ihle speak for himself. His diaries and letters are fascinating:

"It was between July and September, 1870, that an agent advertised in a Norwegian paper for 18 strong families to emigrate to New Zealand. But what we had heard of this country made us doubtful. But the agent said "There now, you will find the Maoris a nice race of people", which proved to be quite correct. "And what are the conditions?" we asked. He said "It will cost you nothing and you will get ten acres of land, your own freehold property". "And what sort of work are we to do?" "Oh, the same sort as you are doing in your own land - bushfelling, roadmaking, farming, bridge building, or anything you can put your hands to. And you will have to sail from Christiania on October 5th, 1870 in a steamer called the "NorthStar" for London. When in London, there will be another agent to look after you and take care of you. Any family can take two children. An interpreter will be arranged, for most of you cannot speak or understand the English language".

Our names were taken, including the children's, and instructions given on what clothing would be required for the journey. Well, October the 5th came and we were all ready, many of us strangers to one another. Aboard we went and a lively time we had for a while, some crying, some laughing, and some probably with a 'drop' in before going on board, as there were many friends to see us off. As we steamed down the Christiania Fjord everything looked beautiful and many wondered if ever we would see the dear Old Land again.

Mr Ihle glosses over all difficulties and obstacles. Perhaps they just did not exist in his life. Next is an extract from a newspaper article, dated Palmerston 13th March 1871, sent to "Verdens Gang", Christiania, who published it on October 4th the same year. A hundred years later the article was translated into English.

"On February 13th we started the last lap of the journey and the following morning we were firmly stuck on tidal banks (they travelled by boat from Wellington to Foxton). At this point we had visits from many natives - and they looked very likeable people. In the evening at high tide we were able to continue and the next day we reached Palmerston on foot where we were given a very warm reception. The table was laid and laden with meat and sandwiches. Women and children ate first, followed by the men. Next morning we travelled two miles in a southerly direction and there we bought land. Our tents were erected and we lived in these until we could build our simple little huts. We started working on the railway immediately, cutting sleepers, because the railway was to go just outside our huts. Our soil was fertile and needed no manure, but my goodness there is a lot of work to be done to turn forest into farmland. At this point we owe the Government £54, of this we have to pay back £2 every month except for the first month. We have had a lot of visits from the natives, who are extremely inquisitive and they will come on horseback for miles just to look and find out. They are all on horseback, men, women and children. We need an interpreter to talk with them as they understand neither Norwegian nor English. They are very likeable and have always got apples for our children. We see them daily and I must say there are many Norwegians much wilder and more savage than they are. At this stage it is too early to say whether any family members ought to follow us because we cannot speak with any confidence, but we, ourselves, are not going back to Norway.

P.S. Our little boy is so clever. He speaks now whenever he wants to express himself, and he stands in the doorway imitating the birds which sit in the trees, and talks non-stop. We have tremendously large forest on our properties. There are large trees, some up to 56 ft at the base. We visited the son of a Danish bishop, who lives four miles away from us, and there we were made welcome as if we were members of his own family, and we were given presents to take home."

A.G.S. Bradfield in "Forgotten Days" 1956 takes up the story.

"We got work road-making and those used to axe-work splitting sleepers for the Palmerston-Foxton tram. Four of us, after splitting sleepers for a while, started pit-sawing rails for the tram. A contract was let for the laying of the railway (tramway) to a gentlemen named Stewart and we were asked if any of the immigrants understood the work of laying a tram. I said I had worked on the railway in Norway and this was not worse. I left the pit-sawing and was put on the tram work as foreman and followed it to Foxton. When we arrived at Foxton with the tram there was a 'jubilee'. There was a trolley with a tablecloth on which were placed plenty of good things. The trolley was pushed along the line and anyone who liked to have anything to eat or drink could get it without money or price. Subsequently tenders for a contract to build 2 1/4 miles of

railway were called. This was to go through the town of Palmerston. I tendered and got it, the Government to find the rails and fastenings and the contractor to find the sleepers and labour, the complete work to include ballasting. The ballast pin was where the railway goods shed now stands".

Mr Ihle also recounted how he brought the first engine from Foxton to Palmerston on the wooden rails, many of which broke. The first engine was called the "Skunk" and the second the "Wallaby". He contracted to build the Fitzherbert bridge in two years for £7000 but finished it in 18 months. Other bridges he built included that over the Rangitikei River at Bulls, those at Tokomaru, Mangatainoka, Kahuterawa, Tiritea and four railway bridges between Palmerston and Ashhurst.

What a toiler Hansen Ihle must have been!! Energetic, versatile and fearless - a true pioneer indeed, but a gentle family man as well.

Compiled by Johan Bonnevie



Mr & Mrs Ihle and family pictured at the turn of the century. Mr Ihle, born 1833, would be approx. 70 years old.

JANNE BERGMAN — MY GRANDFATHER

Janne (John) Bergman was born in Hojanas, Sweden in 1854. His early career was an adventurous one, and he suffered many hardships. He started working in the coal mines of his home country as a lad of 11 years, but the sea called him, and he sailed the oceans of the world in the old Swedish barques, until he was 19 years old, when he landed in Wellington, and jumped ship.

He then walked from Wellington through the Wairarapa to Dannevirke, where he lived for 3-4 years, before coming to Palmerston North.

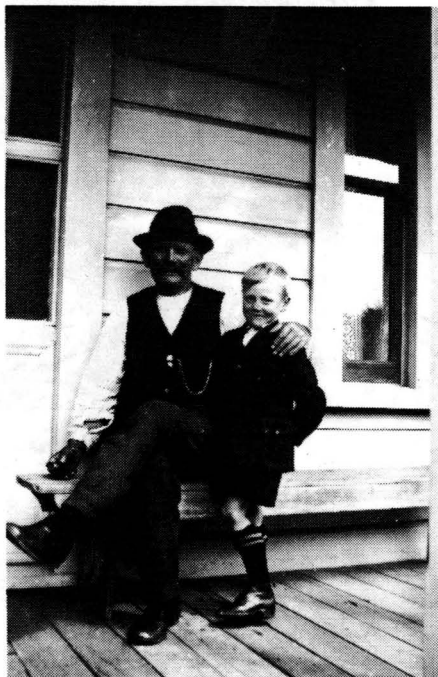
He knew this place when it was in its infancy, as he came before the advent of the railway and could remember the time when scrubland in the Square could be purchased for what would now be a nominal figure.

My grandfather resided at 332 Broadway Avenue, Palmerston North. For over 50 years, he lived in this city, and in his early days followed the occupation of a bridge builder. He assisted in the construction of Fitzherbert, Rangitikei, Kahuterawa, Rongotea, Ashhurst and Tiritea Bridges, and subsequently was for 30 years an employee of the local Borough Council.

He married Christina Mikkelsen from Denmark in 1883. She had arrived in New Zealand when she was 8 years old. Christina died in 1922 and Janne died in 1932.

Contributed by Val Skilton

**Mr Bergman with his grandson on the
verandah at his Broadway home.**



DOROTHEA BURGESS nee RASMUSSEN

Dorothea Burgess, nee Rasmussen, my great great grandmother, had a very dramatic arrival in Australasia in October 1867. In October 1867 Dorothea and Rasmus Rasmussen, (brother and sister), travelled to London, and boarded the vessel, Light of the Age, bound for Australia, as part of its complement of 45 passengers. It is not known why Rasmus and Dorothea (later 'anglicised' to 'Dorothea') left Denmark or why they chose to settle in Australia, but it is presumed that Rasmus was trying to avoid signing up for the Army. (as Prussia had then annexed Schlesvig Holstein).

On the ship Dorothea met Michael Burgess, a shipwright from Waterford, Ireland. Then on 16th January 1868, the Light of the Age was wrecked about 4 miles east of Ocean Grove, Victoria. An account of the shipwreck in 'Australian Shipwrecks, Vol 2', records:-

"After sounding Cape Otway on the 14th the weather became very thick and although a lookout was kept for the pilot, she missed stays and drifted ashore shortly after midnight. Immediately she struck, an anchor was dropped and guns and rockets fired, but it was not until about 2am that the wreck was observed by the pilot schooner Rip. The Rip sent a boat to ascertain accurately the ship's position, the officer in charge returning to the schooner about one hour later to report she was bilged with fifteen feet of water in her holds.

Soon after dawn the stranded ship's masts fell and the vessel turned broadside on to the beach. The Rip took off the passengers and most of the crew of thirty four and returned to Melbourne".

Family legend has a romantic tradition of the wreck;- that Michael Burgess swam ashore carrying Dorothea and thereby saving her. The Captain was subsequently found guilty of drunkenness, neglect of the navigation of his ship and being unfit to be in command. His certificate was cancelled.

At this point, contact with Rasmus is lost, possibly he headed for the goldfields in Australia to seek his fortune. According to the ship's records he was a clerk. Dorothea's story resumes with her marriage at Emerald Hill Catholic Church, Melbourne on 21st March 1868 to Michael Burgess. Following their marriage, Michael worked on a cable-laying ship around Australia. They had two children in Australia, Louisa Frederica and John Otto, however John died in infancy.

It is estimated that the family moved to New Zealand in late 1872 or early 1873. They took up residence in Bulls where Michael worked on the Bulls Bridge, which opened in 1873-74, and also the Bulls Courthouse. The 1882 "Freeholders of New Zealand" shows Michael owned a house property at Bulls and by 1888 he had land in Cheal Road, 'Ngaere', near Eltham. In 1910 the Ngaere property was sold and the family moved to Dannevirke. They had six more children in New Zealand - Birgitte, William, John, Christine, Peter Theodor and Michael Christian.

*- Contributed by Shirlene Badger
Palmerston North Girls High School*

VOYAGE TO NEW ZEALAND

At last arrangements were made for us to sail on the Shaw Savill Co. Clipper "Pleiades" of 994 tons, then laying in the East India Dock in London. My parents' feelings can well be imagined when we embarked and found the rough and pitiful accommodation available for the passengers and emigrants. A payment of sixteen pounds per head had been paid for each of us, which entitled us to better quarters than the emigrants. We found, however, that no provision had been made for this with result that we had to go down into the ship's hold with the rest. The arrangements down below were:- single girls aft, married people down amidships hatch, and single men forward. Where I was (Fore) we were divided into messes of eight men. My mess comprised three Germans and four Irishmen, none of whom could or would speak English. My school German helped me somewhat with the Germans. The bunks were made of rough boards nailed together, and fixed in such a manner that one could just crawl into them. They had straw mattresses, pillows and two blankets each. The food was to say the least "nauseous" and dry rations very short issues. The food was prepared in a small cook's galley, built of rough boards, standing on the deck near the main mast.

We were now off the coast of Spain, and the weather a lot milder. Here it was that several small birds came on board, and lodged in the rigging. We now passed many ships that were coming out of the Mediterranean Sea and with whom we signalled. The weather was splendid now, warm etc, so we donned our summer clothes. We sighted Madeira early in the morning of the 26th September. The water being so warm was an opportunity for everybody to wash their clothes. Swarms of flying fish could be seen now some of which landed on the deck and were promptly deposited in the frying pan.

In this latitude one day we sighted a ship flying the distress signal and immediately sailed towards her. She was a Scotch vessel from Aberdeen, bound for Calcutta. She had been through a storm, lost her masts, several men lost overboard and others injured. One of her boats came across to us and took our doctor and material for repairs back to their ship.

Father states here in his diary, that in spite of the hardships of his children, he could not prevent them from climbing the rigging. Hans was often seen right on top of the mast and also Halfdan. Like monkeys they moved about, careless of wind or storm, and even Marie joined them in the rigging. People called Marie the "Strong Norwegian Girl".

It was on Saturday afternoon about 5pm, everybody was sitting down to tea holding on to their cups etc. When suddenly we shipped a big sea. The water came down the open hatch like a waterfall into the married emigrants' quarters. Father, quite cool and collected, quietly helped Mother and the little ones into the bunks. Three times the sea came down like this until at last there was three feet of water on the floor. The result was that when the ship heeled over the water rushed into the bunks on the sides. The women and children screamed, and the place being in total darkness the situation was desperate. The carpenter and sailors worked feverishly covering the hatches and fastening them.

At last was heard the long expected cry of "Land", and it was the small islands "The Snares" that lay about 200 miles from "Stewart Island", which by the way lays some distance south of the South Island of New Zealand. Here we were met by a strange seaweed, quite red and the whole sea covered with it. A bucket was lowered over the side and brought up full, and it contained millions of small red animals like the Norwegian "Reker".

Extracts from Diary by Hans Christian Petersen (17 years)

Contributed by Jack Curtis



THE CELAENO

Manawatu's first draft of assisted Scandinavian immigrants arrived in Wellington 5th February 1871 on the "Celaeno". It is described in "White Wings" as the little Celaeno being only 702 tons but apparently very seaworthy. The following report appeared in the Evening Post February 6th 1871:-

"The ship Celaeno, Captain Renaut from London arrived in the harbour yesterday morning after a passage of 95 days from land to land. She brings a number of First, Second and Third Class passengers under the care of Dr Gould (formerly of Halls' Arctic Expedition) all of whom arrived in good health. Two births occurred on board but there were no deaths. The emigrants include 59 Norwegian and Swedish, 16 Irish and 2 Scots. There were 12 cabin passengers including 6 nuns of the Order of Our Lady of Missions, two of whom will go to Hawke's Bay, two to Nelson and two to Christchurch".

After a short stay in Wellington the immigrants travelled to Foxton on the "Luna" and arrived there on 14th February 1871. The "Luna" was a powerful steamer and was capable of a speed of 17 knots. It was the first ship to do lighthouse service in New Zealand whenever the opportunity allowed her to be freed from other Government duties. The following report was published in the Evening Post February 13th 1871:-

"The Luna leaves this afternoon for Manawatu taking with her the Scandinavian immigrants ex "Celaeno" who are about to be located on some land in the Rangitikei-Manawatu District. The "Luna" will, after landing them, visit lighthouses at Mana, Farewell Spit, and Cape Campbell, returning thereafter to Wellington".

Contributed by June Gosnell

Newspaper Reports courtesy Wellington Maritime Museum

CARL ANDREAS and ANNE O. 'Annie' ANDERSEN

Carl (or Karl) Andersen, blacksmith, and Anne Olsdatter, married at Ullern Church, Sor Odal, Norway, on 3rd October 1870, two days before the "North Star" sailed from Oslo to connect with the "Celaeno" at London. The same day Anne's sister, Kari, married Torkil Gundersen of Slettbakken. Their friends, Nils and Bertha Pedersen also married the same day, at the same place, before all three couples headed off for a new life together in New Zealand. Carl was born on 13th July 1846 and was from Ostadrikk, Eidskogen, Norway, the second son of Anders Olsen and his wife Thora. Anne was born in Oslo in 1846, daughter of Ole and Kari Eriksen. Her father was said to be the Stationmaster.

Before heading to the Manawatu, both Carl and Annie booked up goods at Wellington for use in their new life, Annie being the only wife to do so. Carl's, at £13/18/6.1/2d, was the second highest account (by a few shillings), while Annie's account was £12/17/8.1/2d. Possibly they had some money behind them as otherwise this couple would have been particularly heavily burdened. The accounts were to be paid in not less than six-monthly installments. The Andersens initially took up the Awapuni land ballotted to them, but recognising the flood-prone nature of the block, soon sought a more viable, and drier prospective farm.

Family tradition recalls that the couple paid about £8 each (£16) for land understood to be somewhere near the recently demolished Gasworks in Napier Road, Palmerston North and records show that Carl was granted title on 26th February 1876, to Lot 5 of Section 417, being 41 acres on Napier Road, Stoney Creek (now Whakarongo) and next door to Annie's sister, Kari Gundersen. This farm had been allotted to Martin Bosen and his wife, fellow passengers on the "Celaeno" who had immediately rejected their original swampy Awapuni farm on arrival and apparently they soon gave the Whakarongo land up also. Carl's grandson, Hector Anderson, understands that the land was partially cleared when purchased, presumably by Bosen, but this may refer to a subsequent property. He also understands that Carl set up a sawmill on the land and supplied timber for the Longburn Railway Bridge and the Railway.

The Anderson family increased steadily with the arrival of Johan Albert (known as Albert) in 1871, Karen (presumably) in 1873, and Thorval (Hector's father) on 1st December 1875. They then sold this farm on 26th September 1876, apparently continuing Carl's sawmilling ventures in the district and, based on Thorval's description, on a farm on the Fitzherbert (Avenue) side of the Manawatu river. Tragedy struck however when little Karen was killed in a bush fire. A Karen Oliver Anderson's birth was registered in 1873 while Karen Anderson's death was registered in 1877. Hector understood that she was one of the first children to be buried at the Terrace End Cemetery, Palmerston North (opened 1875), however her name is

missing from Cemetery records - this also being an era when cattle also wandered freely over the few mounds of earth in the partially cleared cemetery grounds.

Following their departure from Stoney Creek the family further increased with the births of Otto Casper (1878), Alfred (1880), Emil (1883), a second Karen (1886), Oscar (1888) and finally their youngest child, Ethel Marion, who was born at Blue Forks, in the U.S.A. in 1893 during the time the family lived there.

Grass began to seem greener back in New Zealand and they sailed once again to the South Pacific. One souvenir they brought back with them was their first washing machine, a half-barrel with a wheel and cogs on top, which moved an agitator back and forth amongst the washing in the barrel below. Hector understood that they had returned from the U.S.A direct to Dannevirke, however they appear to have lived there previously.

Their second daughter, named Karen in memory of the daughter who had been burned to death, was killed on 8th April 1896, aged 10, after hitting her head on a stone when she fell from a swing. The deaths of both Karens left a feeling that the name was unlucky for them.

The family remained in Dannevirke thereafter, where Carl and his sons established the timber mills of 'Anderson Sons and Co' (not to be confused with 'Anderson and Son', coach builders and undertakers of Dannevirke). They moved their mills around the region, cutting timber at Raumati, Tipapakuku, and in the Ngapaeruru (around 1905/6), Piri Piri and Umutaoroa districts. Carl was noted as a very innovative person and his sons inherited this trait, Thorval and Oscar eventually building themselves a plane, about 10 feet long and operated by a motorbike engine, however it was never completed to the point of 'controlled flight'.

Carl Andreas Anderson is recorded in the Dannevirke Settlers Cemetery burial book, as having purchased a plot in December 1907, presumably in response to his declining health. He was described as big and strong, and had also been noted as a fearless swimmer in the Manawatu River (in flood and otherwise) in his day. However at some stage during his life he had hurt himself and this injury eventually turned to the cancer which caused his death, on 14th December 1910, aged 59. Annie lived until 18th May 1936 reaching the great age of 90 years. She and Carl share a plot in the George Street Cemetery, Dannevirke, where their daughter Karen is also buried.

Compiled by Val Burr

ANDERS CHRISTIAN and MARIE CHRISTENSEN

Of the "Celaeno" passengers, one couple who did not succeed in finding their dream future in the Manawatu, were Anders and Marie Christensen. They started as well as most, with Marie finding her highly valued niche as a local midwife. Then in 1885 the family circle was shattered with Marie, possibly the stronger partner, dying in childbirth. Anders found himself struggling to cope with the duties of breadwinner and solo parent of the seven surviving children aged between 2 and 15. Without extended family to turn to, he was obliged to have at least two of the children fostered out, while his 15 year old daughter struggled to cope with the remainder, including the two year old.

Anders Christian Christensen was born in about 1837 in Christiania (Oslo), Norway, his father being a partner in the bakery business 'Amundsen and Christensen'. The Amundsens are understood to be the family of the explorer Roald Amundsen and were said to have introduced Anders to Marie, apparently a relative of theirs. Marie, nee Nilsen (or 'Nilsdotter'), was born 1st June 1840 at Brunskog, Varmland, Sweden, the daughter of Nils and Marie Jonsson, of Byn, Brunskog. Anders and Marie were married in July 1868 and their first child 'Annie' Martha was born 14th September 1869.

With the seventeen other couples, the Christensens arrived in Wellington on the "Celaeno" on 5th February 1871 and tradition has it that on the first night a great celebration was held in the old Barracks where the group were housed. Anders was very musical and was said to have played the fiddle, whilst himself dancing around the room amidst the dancing couples.

After a few days in Wellington the party arrived at Foxton on the "Luna", setting out the next day for Palmerston North. The familiar story goes that the men walked all the way, with the women being transported to Rangiotu and walking from there.

The Government agents had wondered how some of the non-labourer immigrants including Anders, a baker and miller, would cope with the transition to farming. Certainly he knew enough to recognise suspect land when he saw it and objected, with three others, to the swampy farm he had been allotted at Awapuni. As a result these four were transferred to Stoney Creek, (now Whakarongo) to the slightly less flood-prone Napier Road property where the Christensen family were to remain until shortly after Marie's death. (The old Manawatu River course cuts right through the property, behind the house site - and still regularly becomes a lagoon). Anders finally received the title to the 48 acre property on 23rd March 1878.

The family steadily grew, filling the little cottage Anders had built near the road. Richard (Dick) was born in 1872, Niobar (Snider) in 1874, Calvert (Collie) in 1876, Emmanuel (Snowy) in 1878, Lydia in 1880 and Hilda in 1882. As with

many other Scandinavian families the names and spellings were Anglicised from the originals, complicated further by the family's predisposition to nicknames. Stoney Creek (Whakarongo) School opened nearby in 1877 with 'Annie' (Martha) starting during 1878, and the other children in their turn.

During this time Anders worked on his farm and fulfilled his obligations to the New Zealand Government, while Marie worked (between her own confinements) as the local midwife, also 'laying out' the dead for burial. One of Lydia's few recollections of her mother, was of her brother Richard and herself being yelled at, and told not to wander in the dense bush on the farm, for fear of getting lost. Another incident which the family recalls was of Anders, during the severe flood of 1880, finding a convenient 'boat' in the form of his flat-bottomed baker's dough-mixing trough, to deliver bread around the community. Anders was said to have been very clever, inventing a water wheel which worked in still water and also creating a telescope which he used to study the stars. Marie's friend, Mrs Svenson of James Line, was able to pass on to Lydia, amongst other things, Anders' Norwegian recipe for Ammonia Biscuits, made from rock ammonia. Lydia's children dearly loved this memento of their forebears - even while overseas during World War II.

Finally, on 13th March 1885 came the turn of events which led to the disintegration of the family - Marie died in childbirth, aged 45 years. The Doctor, Hugh Mariner, was in attendance during the day.

The two photos which survive of Marie show a confident, firm, no-nonsense personality, such as one would expect of a midwife. A stern frown in one photo however, is said to be because her young son, Richard, was biting her finger at the time!

Presumably the sad memories now associated with their home aided the decision to sell the property in June the following year.

Anders was naturalised on 8th December 1892, as a gentleman of Palmerston North. He also was said to have become a Seventh Day Adventist, although there is no proof of this, especially given a photo of him taken late in life - a fairly short, mild looking, grey haired and bearded man, holding his beloved violin and standing alongside an advertising board which reads "A.C. Christensen, Magnetic and Electric Healer"! During his later years Anders lived in the Shannon area, apparently with his two bachelor sons, Niobar and Calvert. Tradition has it Niobar was involved in sheep stealing, dumping the skinned carcasses into a gully in the Ruahine Ranges. When things got too hot, around 1906, Niobar felt it wise to depart for Australia and he never returned. Anders died from cancer in the Ohiro Home in Wellington on 16th August 1907, where, presumably, he was sent due to his deteriorating health. The blank spaces on his Death Certificate, and the fact that he was buried in an unmarked 'pauper's grave' at Karori Cemetery, give testimony to his circumstances in his declining years. In September 1907, Calvert, suffering from depression, attempted suicide in his father's whare in Shannon. He died from the resulting gunshot wound on 2nd October 1907 and was buried, and forgotten, in the Public Reserve at Terrace End Cemetery.

Lydia, who had been four when her mother died, was first fostered by a family named Larsen, at Mauriceville, who worked her very hard and did not send her to school. After two years the Larsens announced they were going to America, but Anders refused to let her go, fearing they would 'lose' her there. She was then adopted in 1887 by Ola P Dahlstrom and his wife Perrine, with her father's consent, and moved to their farm in Roberts Line, Kelvin Grove, where her son, Leo Burr, still lives.

My grandmother Lydia, the adopted daughter of the Dahlstroms', lived about a mile from the original Christensen farm. This close proximity provided a link with her long dead mother, as Lydia eventually came to know Marie's friends. Her sister Annie, also did her best to fulfil the central 'motherly' role in the family, maintaining contact with her siblings over the years and the resulting bond still exists a century later. The loss of a wife and mother, however, had its effect on all. Anders possibly did not achieve his potential without her, and, in addition to the children being given over to others, one of the remaining sons felt it necessary to 'skip the country', while another was driven, through depression, to suicide.

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Oral Source: (and research) - Christensen family, including Leo Burr and Vera McLennan-Boman, nee Burr, Michael Christensen, Charlie Christensen and Niobar's descendants in Australia, Bonnie De Jongh and Irene Black. Further researched and compiled by Val A Burr.

OLA PERSSON and PERINE MARTINE DAHLSTROM

Ola and Perine Dahlstrom left no blood descendants; they did nothing which set them apart from their fellow Scandinavian immigrants; they did not even want a headstone on their grave - as Ola thought no-one would be interested in their last resting place. Now, seven decades after their deaths, they have a Kelvin Grove street named in their honour, their little farm (if mostly subdivided) has the distinction of being one of only three of Palmerston North's original Scandinavian farms still owned by the same family, and the only one in Kelvin Grove. Since 1987 they have also had a headstone on their grave, provided by their adopted daughter's descendants and duly acknowledging Ola's preference for anonymity.

Ola (or Ole) Persson Dahlstrom was born on 3rd April 1842, at Otterp, Malmohus Len, Sweden, the son of Persson Olsen, a farmer. By the Scandinavian method of adopting the father's christian name, to create the child's surname, Ola should have used the surname 'Persson' instead of 'Dahlstrom' and this supports the rumour that he had altered his surname due to an indiscretion as a youth - influencing his views on headstones also! At some stage he moved to Denmark where he ultimately married Perine Martine Osterby on 7th August 1870 at Braband Church, Ungkarl, Murerv Aar, in Arhus Province, Denmark. Perine, the daughter of a shoemaker, was born on 15 October 1845, at Tandrup, Samso, an island on the south-east coast of Arhus Province, Denmark. Dahlstrom trained as a bricklayer receiving his Trade Certificate on 26th August 1872 at Lund, Sweden.

The urge to migrate led to their departure from Hamburg on 8th October 1875, aboard the 'Shakespear', bound for New Zealand. The 882 ton ship, commanded by Captain H.D. Jorgensen, arrived at Wellington 108 days later, on 24th January 1876, complete with 390 immigrants and yellow fever. The dreaded yellow flag, was seen flying at the main-truck when she came into the Bay and Port Health Officers found that there had been seven cases of the fever on board and, although these had now largely recovered, the ship was diverted to Somes Island for a day or two of quarantine. There had been a few cases of the disease in Hamburg when she sailed. Two infants had also died during the voyage. After both the ship and passengers had been "cleansed and disinfected", the Dahlstroms completed their journey to their new home.

Presumably the Dahlstroms were allotted their Roberts Line farm, reasonably soon after arrival - the 24 acre Lot 69, of Section 418, now '117 Roberts Line, Palmerston North'. Although this land had originally been granted to Gustaf Kindberg, a Swede who had arrived on the "England" in 1871, the Dahlstroms found an untouched totara forest. Fortunately Ola had skills to suit and soon created a two-roomed home from split slabs of totara grown on the property, in which they lived for about twelve years. The property was officially granted to them on 5 December 1877, receiving title to it in

May 1880. Ola was duly naturalised on 27 December 1884, a settler of Stoney Creek, Palmerston North.

Unfortunately the couple were unable to have children of their own, and in time had the opportunity to adopt the daughter of Anders Christensen, formerly of the district, whose wife Marie, had died in childbirth two years earlier. Thus on 2nd November 1887, they became the parents of seven year old Lydia Christensen (thereafter usually known as Dahlstrom). Lydia had spent the two years since her mother's death, staying with a family called Larsen at Mauriceville. She recalled being worked very hard, doing chores such as sweeping the dirt floor of the house there and had never attended school. Thus when the family decided to go to America to live, she was probably delighted when her father refused to let her go with them, as he feared they would 'lose' her there. A photo of her, by G.W. Shailer, in about 1888, shows a beautifully dressed, and cared-for little girl, a far cry from what her previous fate may have seemed. Adoption in this era however, tended to be aimed at providing an extra pair of working hands rather than the more emotional aspects, and Lydia's case was no exception.

At about this time Ola purchased a property in the hills behind Halcombe and was there long enough to have his (previously published) photo taken with a group of men beside their tent. However Perine refused to move into the wilderness and as a result the decision was made to build a new house on the little farm, relegating the original cottage to a harness room. Lydia said they were preparing to build the new house when she arrived in 1887, and she only lived in the old one for a short time, probably in the lean-to tacked onto the back wall - which at least had a wooden floor. Lydia had to walk about two and a half miles across country from the Roberts Line farm, carefully negotiating creeks, to Terrace End School. However Perine often kept her home from school to do housework and by the time Kelvin Grove School opened just down the road in 1893, she felt her school work was so far behind her prospective classmates that, aged almost 13, she refused to attend any more.

The property, once cleared, operated as a small dairy farm, with about twelve cows, and also an array of other small livestock to make it pay. Lydia recalled that she was not allowed to milk the cows until one day she showed her parents how she could 'milk' some gloves on the clothes line - a demonstration she may have later regretted. In 1936 a gale destroyed the split totara cowshed and hayshed. The Dahlstrom's original cottage was so badly damaged it had to be demolished. The totara slabs used to build this cottage, now into their second recycling, form the rather historic facade of the large modern concrete block carshed/workshop on the property. Similarly parts of Ola's second house now adorn the third one, built in 1956. Some bricks in the chimneys of this latest house, began life in the chimney of the slab cottage. Recycling has always been a particular attribute in the family and Ola is recalled for his re-use of 'toilet waste' as fertiliser, once it was suitably rotted. When Lydia was a child, a man ploughing their farm had the misfortune to have his horse bolt right through the resulting mound - reappearing on the other side duly transformed!!

As the area opened up Ola found much use for his training as a brick layer. Lydia used to point out his distinctive style of

chimney top around the town. An underground brick water tank he made, probably for the slab cottage, still gathers rainwater from the present house, even though not needed since 1940 when an artesian bore provided running water. His plastered front steps from the second house were recycled also. He worked on the Hoffman Kiln, in Featherston Street, (built around 1918, and now classified by the New Zealand Historical Society). A photo taken of a group of workers, including Ola, was donated by the family to the owners, the Brick and Pipes Company, in the 1950s, and was displayed in their office until burnt during a burglary. During this time he also worked on the foundations of the 80 foot chimney (demolished, 1977), then the tallest in the town. The owners were so worried about his advanced age and health, that they would only let him work on the lower 20 feet. He was then about 76 years old.

Some years after Lydia's death, her younger sister, Hilda, nee Christensen, commented to her niece that she thought Lydia had been very lucky being adopted out. Things were not quite so straight forward however. Lydia spoke of herself and Mrs Dahlstrom once meeting Lydia's real father, Anders Christensen, on the road when she was quite young, and receiving an apple from him. As soon as they parted company, Perine had snatched it from her and thrown it away, claiming that it might be poisoned!

As the couple aged, Perine became increasingly antagonistic towards her adopted daughter, and this marred their relationship for many years. Perine was asthmatic and her health may have been erratic, however experience with the illness stood Lydia in good stead, when after a fourteen year courtship she married the chronic asthmatic, Sidney Burr in 1913. Ola built a little cottage nearby for himself and Perine, and passed the older house over to the newlyweds. Ola had also arranged that Sidney would operate the farm on his behalf and the couple's 'love letters' have much in common with a business contract, due obviously to a caring father-of-the-bride. Perine refused to attend the wedding held at their home, sitting in the kitchen throughout. When their first child was expected, she jumped out from behind the fowlshed waving a hammer, startling Lydia - and in consequence was blamed for the resulting miscarriage. The two women were kept well apart throughout Lydia's next pregnancy. When told of Perine's death, on 30th July 1918, aged 73, Ola's first comment was "good job", and life on the farm gained a new tranquility. At her funeral Pastor Christensen summed her life up with the words "When she was good she was very good, and when she was bad she was very bad!"

Ola is very fondly remembered by his two grandchildren, Vera (born 1916) and Leo (1919). He spent the last two years of his life often bedridden and very dependent on a walking stick. He apparently considered the youngsters a bit of a handful. Vera enjoyed the job of supplying him with willow switches which extended his reach well across the room. Leo has no recollection of ever being on the receiving end of any of these, while Vera later heard that Ola never had the heart to hit her with one, due to her generosity in providing the switches. Finally, on the morning of 5 August 1924, Ola asked the children to leave the room, and a short time later Lydia discovered he was dead, aged 82.

The Dahlstrom farm has remained in the same family (if by adoption) for five generations, since 1877, is responsible for a strong attachment to otherwise trivial links with the past. The fact that Vera went on to research and write on the history of the district, has expanded these links further. Documents, letters and books, which normally disappear in the course of time, still exist, (many are not in English). Use of her forebears' native tongue was restricted to Lydia's conversations with friends on the 'party line' telephone, thus confusing eavesdroppers! Sites on Lot 69, its buildings, equipment, animals (including their graves) and memories are still 'alive' in the family, even as the suburb of Kelvin Grove steadily swallows it up.

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Lydia Christensen/Dahlstrom and her horse Nugget cir. 1912.

GUSTAV and MATILDA KINDBERG

On arrival, after losing much of their luggage at Rangiotu, the passengers from "England", were allotted land in the 'Scandinavian Block' at Stoney Creek, now Whakarongo and Kelvin Grove. The single men received about 20 acres each, mainly fronting onto Roberts Line, James Line or Napier Road. Properties were allotted at £1 per acre and payable over five years. Kindberg received Section 418, Lot 69 - 23 Acres, of bush and towering totara trees in Roberts Line. The 'homestead' of this largely subdivided property now bears the title '117 Roberts Line'. This site is the highest, and most logical site to build on, however he did not apparently reach that stage. He had purchased provisions and tools to the value of £9/10/- with which to establish himself and earn his living, and probably remained in the workers' camp.

Gustav's next appearance was his marriage to Mathilde (Matilda) Johannesen on February 17th 1877, at the home of Johan Andresen, a "Celaeno" passenger, of Awapuni. Gustav worked on a farm at this time, and possibly Andresen was his employer. Matilda had come over to Palmerston North to help with the children of other immigrants. She was born in Norway on 28th September, 1857 and had arrived on the "Hovding", in 1872, with her parents John and Marie Johannesen. The family were from Dalskog, Alvsborgs, Sweden, and had settled in Norsewood. The couple seem to have purchased one of the 40 acre Scandinavian farms at Awapuni at about this time, and their first children were born there.

At some time in the late 1880s or early 1890s the Kindberg family purchased another farm which they described as being in the Bunnythorpe area. The 1893 Manawatu Electoral roll has him (spelt 'Gustave Kinberg') on Foxton Line and also at Bunnythorpe. Their daughter Emma was born at the Bunnythorpe farm in 1892, and Emma recalled in 1985 that "we had a great life there and we loved the horses. One horse was called Morgan, named after the man we bought it from. One day Willy my brother, and another boy, rode him into a dam where they nearly got swamped, the horse couldn't move. Someone came and got them out". Another incident there involved her sister Mary who was "some years older than I. One evening, as it was getting dark, we heard moreporks in the trees outside the house. Mary didn't admit to it, but on this particular evening she threw a stone up at a morepork and it dropped down dead at her feet. Mary always hated the fact that she had killed it and could not bear to hear it mentioned".

All was not tranquility during the family's stay at this farm, not only were there Mary's noisy moreporks, but on a more serious note was a house fire. The Feilding Star on Thursday 31st December 1896, records that "Mr G.A. Kindberg's nine-roomed residence, on the Bunnythorpe - Palmerston Road (now Railway Road) was destroyed by fire on Tuesday afternoon. Only a few articles of furniture were saved".

Emma recalled that this farm was in some way associated with the Glaxo factory at Bunnythorpe and was about 100 acres.

She also recalled that the Headmaster at Kelvin Grove was a Mr Matheson. (Mr A Matheson taught around 1900 and appears in the earliest known school photo, probably with some of the Kindberg children). Emma said "My brothers, sisters and I sat the yearly examinations (at Kelvin Grove School) and passed into the next standards. I remember sitting the entrance examination when I was eight (1900), to pass into standard two and I succeeded.

At this time the Boer War was raging and I remember Queen Victoria being very concerned about the soldiers. When Queen Victoria died, the sadness of the people around us, and the very thick black print in the newspaper are fixed dramatically in my memory. Then Elsie, the fifteenth child in our family was born". Elsie was born on January 1st, 1901 and Queen Victoria died two weeks later.

The family then moved to Makahu, out of Strathmore in Taranaki, to a bush farm of 200 acres. The 11 sons were not very interested in farming and the 4 daughters were kept busy helping their mother. The land was very rugged and there was no school nearby. Groceries were dropped off by packhorse and the family had to be fairly self sufficient in their lean-to-home in the bush.

The Strathmore farm was finally sold and the family moved to Norsewood where Gustav bought his father-in-law's farm of about 50 acres. Gustav remained restless and unable to settle, he travelled a lot, always seeking out a better property. After one of his trips, he announced that the family was going to shift to a charming colonial home on a property at Patumahoe, near Pukekohe. The family remained on this property for about two years, where four sons, Sam, Enoch, Fred and George helped on the farm.

From Patumahoe various children began to leave home and marry. Gustav was unable to attend one wedding, as once again he was away on business. Soon the remainder of the family was en route to a new property, back at Stratford. Gustav's restless spirit intervened again and he departed alone, to Sweden in about 1910 to visit a sister who lived in Gothenburg. On his eventual return he discovered that another son, Fred, had died (1911) of appendicitis aged 19. Gustav's days were numbered also, he developed appendicitis and six months later, on 4th September, 1912, he died at Stratford, aged 66 years.

On October 20 1928 the long suffering widow Matilda passed away in Auckland aged 71.

Contributed by Val Burr

KNUD and KAREN SOPHIA JENSEN — A FAMILY SAGA

The Jensen family were the second longest lasting Scandinavian family in the Stoney Creek 'Scandinavian Block' area, remaining from 1875 to 1979. While some aspects require further research, these are very well compensated by memories passed on by Christian Jensen, who was four when he and his family arrived in New Zealand. Christian's reactions as a so-called 'alien', to anti-German prejudice during wartime, provide a valuable perspective not readily realised by present generations.

Knud and Karen Sophia 'Carrie' Jensen were from the former Danish province of Schleswig-Holstein, and like many others preferred leaving their homeland, to remaining there under Prussian domination. Knud was thought to have been from the town of Schleswig, however his naturalisation papers state he was born at Moen, an island on the eastern side of Denmark, now called Mon. His death certificate gives his father as Jens Jorgensen Jensen, a labourer, and his mother as Caterina, nee Jamieson. Karen, nee Moller, is understood not to have been from Schleswig. Her family were said to be shipwrights, however her death certificate gives her father as a labourer. Knud and Karen were both born about 1836 and married in Denmark about 1862.

The family sailed from Hamburg on the "Humbolt", on October 19th, 1874. The passenger list described them as 38 years old. Their children were named as Jens 8, Henriette 5, Christian 4, and their second daughter Sangl, 9 months. Christian's childhood memory of the voyage was its length, the scarcity of food, water and fruit, weevil infested biscuits and many related privations. Three months and nine days later they docked at Wellington on January 28, 1875. Of the 387 immigrants on board, 195 were from Denmark and 28 from Schleswig, including Jensens, and the Bufe family who were to live nearby.

Christian said that the next stage of the journey was on a smaller boat, which ran onto a sandbank at Foxton and that they "had to swim for it". Ken, Christian's eldest son, recalled that this was the coastal boat "Manawatu", a paddlesteamer which serviced the port regularly. The family lost furniture, luggage and jewellery as a result, presumably during the urgent need to (successfully) lighten the vessel. They only saved more portable items including an old family Bible with locks on it, a jew's-harp and a violin. Their somewhat dishevelled arrival at Foxton on February 1st however, preceded a tram trip to Palmerston North, a luxury compared with the long difficult walk of earlier Scandinavians. The family were then housed at the Feilding Immigration Barracks, in Terrace End, Palmerston North, until they could take up their property, Section 416, Lot 57, in James Line, Stoney Creek. Christian spoke of the family

having to cut their way through the bush to get to their slightly undulating, 20 acre farm. They soon built a cottage and began clearing the bush, establishing the farm that was to remain in the family for the following century.

Peter (formerly Jens) Jensen was among the first day pupils at Stoney Creek (now Whakarongo) School when it opened on 4th October 1877. However any language difficulties he experienced would not have been distinguishable, as only three of the 24 children "knew their letters", and the diversity of European cultures meant that many of the children could not speak to one another, let alone the teacher. The Jensen children's names were anglicised which has made identification difficult especially in the case of the two sisters, Henriette and Sangl. Only Christian seems to have retained the name used on the "Humbolt" passenger list.

Like other pioneering families, the Jensens had to provide their own entertainment which they shared with the Stoney Creek community. Knud was said to be very sociable, a great story teller and raconteur. The family loved music, singing, and played a selection of musical instruments.

When the children grew up, all moved elsewhere, at least temporarily. Peter had an entrepreneurial nature and headed for the United States of America to make his fortune. Very little is now known of him except that he did return to New Zealand for a visit, before returning to California to set up a Night Club business. Also showing artistic interest was one sister, by now known as either Kezia or Karen, who went on the stage, much to the displeasure of her strict Lutheran family. Christian disapproved of his more flamboyant siblings and regrettably passed on very little information about them. She may have joined one of the travelling professional dramatic troupes, who passed through the towns of New Zealand. The second sister married a Mr Jepsen from the district and lived in either Ashhurst or Feilding. The situation is complicated by Knud's death certificate not mentioning daughters at all, while Sophia's, five years later, mentions one daughter, although these may be clerical errors.

Christian became a timber worker, felling Kauri forests, before setting up his own timber mills. After being first burnt out, then flooded out, he gave this venture up. He was fanatical about personal honesty and truthfulness and did all business on a handshake, - his word was his bond. As a result he made occasional business losses with less scrupulous people. From sawmilling he went into partnership in a large general store in Palmerston North, but without contracts being drawn up, was "taken down" by his partner. From there Christian returned to take over the farm for his ageing father, in time enlarging it with the purchase of 59 acres. He married Alice Elizabeth Smith and they raised four sons, Kenneth Christian, Roy Ernest, Norman and Oscar Howard 'Jim'.

The early Jensen family were very strict Lutherans, however, according to family tradition, when a Lutheran Pastor who had trained in Berlin, arrived in the area, many of the Danes, including the Jensens, with memories still fresh of the Prussian takeover of their homeland, opted out of the church. This may refer to tension between the Norwegian Pastor Gaustad and the Danish Pastor Sass. Gaustad was abruptly dismissed by the congregation in the 1880s and the resulting ill feeling

caused some families to pull out in sympathy. By the time an 'acceptable' Pastor arrived, the Jensen loyalty had been transferred permanently. There is no tradition however of disharmony amongst the early German and Danish settlers in the area, many of these Lutheran sons-of-labourers probably leaving Prussia for similar reasons to the Danes.

Knud Jensen died on 19th April 1905 aged 69 years and Karen Sophia died at home on 22nd April 1909 aged 74 years. Knud and Karen share an unmarked plot in the Lutheran section of the old Cemetery.

The family interest in music was passed on to the next generation, and of Christian's sons, Roy played the piano and Jim, the violin. They invited locals to dances in their barn, however when some began drinking and playing up, Christian, a strict teetotaler, felt obliged to discontinue them. This new generation of Jensens rode horses about two miles to Kelvin Grove School and also to Palmerston North Boys High School. The first Kelvin Grove Hall had been built in 1901 and the family took great interest in events held there. At one time Roy and Norman held dance classes there for 3d a lesson. Christian and Norman were elected to the Hall Committee in 1917, Ken beginning a long association with it in 1918. Over a number of years, various members of the family participated in and arranged, a number of social activities held in this Hall, and its eventual replacement after a fire.

During World War I, some New Zealanders were very suspicious of "those Danes", especially any from Schleswig-Holstein, which was then part of Germany. Some urged that they be interned, but with two boys, Ken and Roy, volunteering for war service in 1914, criticism in their case must have been silenced. Ken served in France in the Otago Regiment, returning about May 1918. Roy was badly injured, losing half a leg. Both Ken and Roy's photos appear on the Roll of Honour in the Kelvin Grove Hall. The third son, Norman, also wanted to volunteer, but his services were declined due to a leg injury. The youngest, Jim, (born about 1902) remained at home helping his parents run the farm.

Christian had a very distinct accent and was very conscious of ill feeling toward 'foreigners' during both wars. He and other Danes found it discreet to become very patriotic and "strongly King and Country" during this period and those who visited him during World War I were told "Here you must speak English! No Danish or German here!" He had a particular wariness of Government servants and was outraged by a report that the New Zealand Government might take over uneconomic farms to push up production of food. Christian became rather paranoid about the security of his property, keeping his farm gate locked and a nasty tempered dog running loose. One day a car with Government plates did pull up, probably quite innocently, however Christian took the precaution of meeting them with his shotgun and ordered them off, which they did at high speed! Christian was a noted clay target shooter and won many trophies at the Manawatu Clay Shooters Gun Club, so possibly his threats were taken seriously.

Graeme Jensen, son of Roy, and Christian's oldest grandson, spent a lot of time with his grandfather. Graeme used to urge his grandfather to teach him some Danish, but Christian always refused explaining that "New Zealand is a British country - we

must be like them and speak English". Attitudes such as this did irreparable damage to the language and culture. Graeme recalls that although his grandfather was very straitlaced, he had a broad, and very down to earth Scandinavian sense of humour. He remarked that the family kept getting smaller, he was tall and had married a petite lady, then his sons (and grandsons) did the same. "You can't breed draught horses from ponies"! he remarked.

Christian, his wife Alice, and Ken lived on the James Line farm, operating it as a dairy farm. Even in his later years, Christian remained active, splitting wood and feeding out on the farm. He died on 20th November 1959, aged 88 years. Ken, who had never married, finally sold the farm in 1979, to another early James Line family, the Schnells's. He then moved into town and lead a very active life. On 21st September 1988, he died aged 92. The house, in James Line, now about 90 years old, recently underwent a massive renovation, and although dramatically altered, it remains an attractive, preserved, reminder of one of the early Scandinavian families in Manawatu. The old barn where the family held dances, is still standing behind it (1990).

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Oral Sources: (by letter) Dr. Graeme Jensen of Brisbane, Australia, between 1988 and 1990; also Peter Jensen, Wellington.

Compiled by Val A Burr

ANDERS and ABILDE CLAUSEN

This is the story of Anders and Abilde Clausen and their children who, because of problems created by Boundary divisions of Slesvig and Holstein, left their Danish village of Egvad in North Zealand. They travelled to Hamburg where they joined the 1,200 ton German sailing ship "Terpsichore" on the 15th November 1875. After a difficult and eventful 120 day voyage they reached Wellington on the 18th March 1876 Accompanying Anders and Abilde were their 6 children, Andreas (Andrew) 19 years, Johan Frederick 17 years, Christian 15 years, Arthur 9½ years, Marie 8 years and baby Anna aged just 6 months. It probably was a direct result of the War with Prussia that the ancestors of our family took Bishop Monrad's advice and immigrated to the Manawatu. Ditlev Monrad was acclaimed as a brilliant scholar and theologian who played a major role in shaping the history of Denmark in the 19th century. He was a man of courage and versatility who was largely responsible for inspiring the migration of a great many people from Denmark to New Zealand. Although he lived in this country only briefly, from 1866-1869, he left with the intention that his sons Viggo and Johannes would continue to clear the forests and transform the swamps to farmland. Viggo did stay on but Johannes' future was to be elsewhere. Bishop Monrad also left a valuable collection of artworks to the National Art Gallery.

The Clausen family purchased a block of land in what was then called Foxton Line (now Pioneer Highway). Times were very hard and their produce of milk, butter and eggs had to be transported from the farm with horse and cart. Then there was the problem of selling - there were no overseas markets or factories as we know them today.

Andrew the eldest son found employment in the flour mill at Linton. It is said that the flour in the mill polluted his lungs and on a doctor's order he left to go farming at Longburn. In 1884 he married Kari Hansen. During their time at Longburn the railway came through from Wellington to Palmerston North and on through the Manawatu Gorge to Dannevirke. Andrew became troubled by Bronchitis and a weak chest. His doctor advised him to shift to a warmer climate so the Longburn Estate was sold and a farm of 100 acres bought at Kiritaki near Dannevirke. However his condition deteriorated and in 1903 he passed away at the age of 47 years, leaving Kari to bring up their 7 children.

Frederick was an apprentice baker when he left Denmark. Strange to say, on the same boat coming out to New Zealand were the Henricksen family, one of whom was the 12 months old Annie whom he married 23 years later.

Frederick worked on the family farm and to help supplement his income he worked on the formation of the Palmerston North to Foxton railway line. He also helped to build the road on the

Aokautere Hill and worked in the metal pit (now known as Fitzroy Park) by the Terrace End Railway Station. Frederick and another fellow worker held the record for the fastest time in filling up a railway wagon with metal, using shovels only.

Christian owned a flourishing timber mill at Tiritea and was active in civil affairs serving on the local council for 3 terms 1905-11, 1916-19 and 1927-31. He married Hanne Olsen.

Arthur settled with his parents and later went into business in Palmerston North. He had a china and crockery shop sited in the Square and after his premature death in 1923 this shop was taken over by Watchorns and later McKenzies. Arthur served on the city council from 1911-13. He married Dagma Christiansen and later Wilhelmina Mortensen.

Marie married Alfred Devantier and died suddenly at an early age.

Anna married Abraham du Fresne who had immigrated from Fredericia. He sailed out to New Zealand in 1890 and being a master builder established a building firm which became well known in the Palmerston North area.

Contributed by Joan Cleland



Scandinavians formed a notable sector of the community which settled in Palmerston North. Scandinavian settlement tended to be in clusters. A major Awapuni settlement was present in 1880 and developed further towards 1890. This was also the case with settlement around Pascal, Oakley, Bourke and Waldegrave Streets. In terms of people, this settlement cluster was larger than land around Frits and Tramway Streets (modern day Russell and Heretaunga Streets), for here much land was under a single owner, Frits Jenssen. Jenssen was such a substantial owner that Frits Street bore his name. Scattered Scandinavian settlement between Victoria/Alexandra Streets (modern day Victoria Avenue) and Terrace East Street (Ruahine Street) had developed by 1880 and enlarged by 1890. Significantly in those days the lower half of Albert Street, from Main Street toward the river, was known as Scandia Street.

Contributed by Sarah Ross, PN Girls High School

EARLY SETTLERS IN BUNNYTHORPE

My grandparents, born in Sweden were Julius Andersson and Christina Bengtson. They both arrived in Wellington during 1875 and in due course met. Julius worked on the Lambton reclamation under a contractor O'Malley. When Julius and Christina married, they became interested in buying land at Bunnythorpe.

Their first child, Alexander, was born in December 1876, and in the holidays Julius decided to look at his land. He left Wellington by ship for Foxton and next day took the train to Palmerston and walked along the track for several miles until he read a sign "Bunnythorpe" nailed to a tree. There was nobody in sight and on calling out, three men came out of the bush. Mr Mountfort a surveyor, directed him to Robert's Line, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. The only felled bush was the one-chain wide roadway, no streams bridged, nor metal on the road. He looked at his purchase and walked down to Rangitikei Line where he called in at a house for a drink of water. They gave him milk when they found he had not had food since the previous day.

In Palmerston North, he made arrangements for a small area of bush to be felled, burnt, and seed to be sown. He had bought high grade seed but found out later that his seed had been substituted or lost, and a poor grade had been cast. The land cost two pounds seven shillings and sixpence an acre. The mortgage of one hundred pounds at 10% interest was held by Charles Heaphy, V.C., then a Judge of the Native Land Court.

In 1878, Julius brought his family to Bunnythorpe, but conditions had not improved. Young Alexander complained that he could not pull his feet out of the mud when they were walking from the station. Christina found it difficult too as she was expecting her second child, Charles, my father. He was born in October 1878 in a hut with a dirt floor and the legs of the table were saplings driven into the ground.

Later there was a need for a school. In 1881 Julius and twelve others met at the railway station to pursue this cause. They picked a suitable section, but they had to raise money so the Education Board could freehold the land and then they had to physically clear the ground for the school and the teacher's house to be built. The school opened in 1883. The two Andersson boys were first day pupils and Julius was on the first school committee of seven members. He served on the committee 10 terms.

In times of flood, some pupils could not get to school. The older boys used to help the headmaster clear the remaining logs off the school grounds. If they misbehaved, he would put them across a log and swipe them with a supplejack vine.

Julius had to find work to raise more capital, so he walked to Taonui, and caught a train to north of Feilding. He worked there bush felling from Monday to Saturday, and on Sunday, he

would cut enough firewood for Christina's use during the week.

The family was growing and Christina had cows to milk. They would free-graze in the daytime and at the evening milking they could be hard to muster. Once, Christina herself was lost so she went up to the quietest cow and said "Bail up" in Swedish. They all finally reached home. The milk was churned into butter and my father Charles would take the produce to the Ready Money Store on the Square (near where the present Public Library is situated). It was always of good quality, unlike some. At Christmas time the store manager gave Julius two brass candlesticks.

The family often had language problems eg. the word "sheep" would sound like "wheep". Making themselves understood at the Registry Office was always a difficult task. The fourth son was to be named Percival, but the Registrar took it as Percy Will, and said "No, you mean Percy William" and that's how it was entered. Eight years later the youngest daughter Annie had her name mixed up in a similar manner. Years later she had to have a birth certificate and was most upset when she found her name was spelt "Any". It was speedily altered.

There were few Swedish folk in the district, so they were pleased to spend a weekend in Pahiatua with kinsfolk. It was a trip they did not forget. The Manawatu River in the Gorge was raging, the road was narrow and dangerous and the horses restive. It scared my father. He called it the "little dark road".

The wives suffered privations for the family. They worked long hours and had little money. The family received poignant letters from Sweden telling how they missed them. The world was told in 1886 of the Tarawera eruption and those in Sweden thought Julius and Christina were buried beneath it. The wives did have neighbours for support, however. Christina was able to oblige one such neighbour who asked if she could borrow some white underwear. She was visiting the Doctor and white underwear was the requirement of the time.

Christina had eight children and died at 76. Julius, who had worked hard all his life, died suddenly at 51 and was buried in the cemetery which he had helped to establish.

Contributed by Mostyn B Anderson



Julius and Christina Andersson and family.

SVEND SVENDSEN

Born in Stavanger, Norway, on 10th May 1852, Svend Svendsen was the only son of Ava and Ester Svendsen. His father was a fisherman. At the age of 21 (having completed his apprenticeship in 1870 to his uncle in shoemaking) he came out to New Zealand in the immigrant ship, the "Hovding", with Captain Nordby in command. Sailing direct from Christiania the "Hovding" landed at Napier on 1st December 1873. Like many of his fellow countrymen, Svend settled at Norsewood where he opened a shop and imported boots and shoes of all kinds. He came to Palmerston North in 1876 and opened another shoe store before shifting to Feilding in 1878. The settlement of Feilding was only four years old when Svend established a shop in Kimbolton Road close to the present Feilding Hotel. Later he set up business in premises situated on the corner of Manchester and Bowen Streets, and this is where Svend's marriage to Jane Maud Osborne was conducted by the Rev Hugh Murray on 14th April 1883. The couple lived on the premises and their first three children were born there. The family moved to a new home in East Street, approximately 1890, which was fortunate as the shop was later destroyed by fire. Temporary premises were then found in Kimbolton Road.

In the early 1900's the burnt shop was replaced with a two storeyed brick building and the footwear business once again flourished on the Manchester/Bowen Street corner. The business was later continued by his son Ernest and finally by his grandson, Raymond Svendsen until 1969.

In 1901 Svend's father died in Norway after a fishing accident, so Svend travelled home and brought his mother back to New Zealand. Ester could not speak English and when they arrived here Svend had to convince the officials that his mother would not be a burden to the Government, and that he would take full responsibility for her. His mother was then allowed to stay and lived the rest of her life with the family in Feilding. Svend and Jane had four girls and four boys. Another daughter had died in infancy.

Svend was very interested in bee keeping - he had about 40 hives. He also enjoyed working in his orchard where he had a wide variety of fruit trees. Svend died on 1st January 1938 in his 86th year. As his coffin was lowered into the grave, two bees landed on it!!

Compiled by Joan Coburn

JULIUS and JOHANNA SIMONSEN

Julius Simonsen born in 1852 in Odense, Denmark, arrived in New Zealand in 1878 after some years as a sailor.

Sometime before 1878 the Government had sold to Mr John Douglas and Mr Robert Campbell (then an MP) 21,400 acres of land north of Te Awahou (Foxton).

Much of this land was swamp, and the Government wanted it to be drained for farming, a condition of the sale was that a master drain be cut from Kopane to the Oroua River and that seventy families were to be settled on land granted by the crown. The land set aside for this purpose was called the Douglas Special Settlement block and the village built was named Campbelltown. (in 1895 changed to Rongotea).

On 20th September 1878 Julius married Johanna Fiche at Te Awahou (now Foxton). At the time of their marriage Julius was aged 26 years and Johanna 19. Johanna had arrived in Wellington aboard the Fritz Reuter on 7th August 1876 after a voyage of sixteen weeks from Hamburg, Germany.

Julius and Johanna arrived in Campbelltown on a Sunday morning in November 1878, bringing with them a tent which was to be their first home. They settled on their property of 5 acres, which according to Julius was overstocked with mosquitoes. He began the task of clearing away some of the bush, splitting enough slabs of totara to build a whare, covering the roof and cracks in the walls with the bark.

Before they could make a living off the land, Julius found work at Rowes sawmill, a distance of three miles away, riding there each day over roads which were nothing more than dirt tracks, - and bottomless mud in the winter.

Obtaining necessary supplies was most difficult with settlers walking or riding to the Makowhai Siding on the Foxton-Sanson Line to pick up supplies, a distance of three miles. In winter this proved most difficult as swamp between Campbelltown and the Siding was so wet it made progress practically impossible.

The first store opened in 1881 by a Mr Charles Dahl. It is believed that Mr Dahl had been a shipmate of Julius Simonsen.

As time progressed Julius cleared more of his land, planted an orchard containing many varieties of fruit trees and provided vegetables for his growing family. The first child a daughter, was born in December 1880. In all there were ten children born to Johanna and Julius in the next fifteen years, six daughters and four sons.

As the land was cleared Julius began to establish a herd of dairy cows. There were no cream separators, milking machines, concrete yards or other modern appliances, neither

was there a sure cash market for butter. Butter making on the farm was an arduous task in those days, the most important farm building was the dairy, and a plentiful supply of cool, clear water. The practice was to set the milk in large pans for twenty four hours to enable the cream to rise. The skimming was done by hand and the cream placed in earthenware crocks or enamel jars, which were stored in the cold water until churning. The churns were of course operated by hand and where possible was done in the cool of the evening. When finished, the manufactured article would be made in large pats and sold to stores, where most likely it would be bartered for goods. If the farmer was lucky he may have a small cash balance in his favour at the end of the month.

The Campbelltown Co-op Dairy Company was incorporated on March 12th 1895. In its first year it produced 90 tons of butter, and the company enjoyed a high reputation in England, where Campbelltown butter commanded the highest price of any on the market. Listed among the earliest forty suppliers is the name of Julius Simonsen. In its first month, these forty suppliers received among them £310.0.0. Butter at that time was valued at nine pence per pound and it took 23 pounds of milk to make one pound of butter.

Another of Julius' endeavours was that of a beekeeper, always having a number of hives, which produced honey for the family, and probably enough to be sold for extra income. Pigs and fowls provided meat and eggs.

The future for the Simonsen family may well have appeared to be bright. It was however not to be so. On the 26th April of that year, Johanna gave birth to her tenth child, a daughter. A few months later she became ill, and on the 5th November Johanna passed away.

Now widowed Julius faced the task alone of bringing up his family of ten children, whose ages ranged from 7 months to 15 years. The years he had spent as a sailor now stood him in good stead. Always a handyman, Julius sewed most of the children's clothing, no doubt the older daughters were of valuable assistance.

Julius continued to farm his land, paying off his mortgage by 1901. In 1918 he purchased a number of sections in Severn Street, Rongotea. It was in that year too that he leased his farm to his son Leonard.

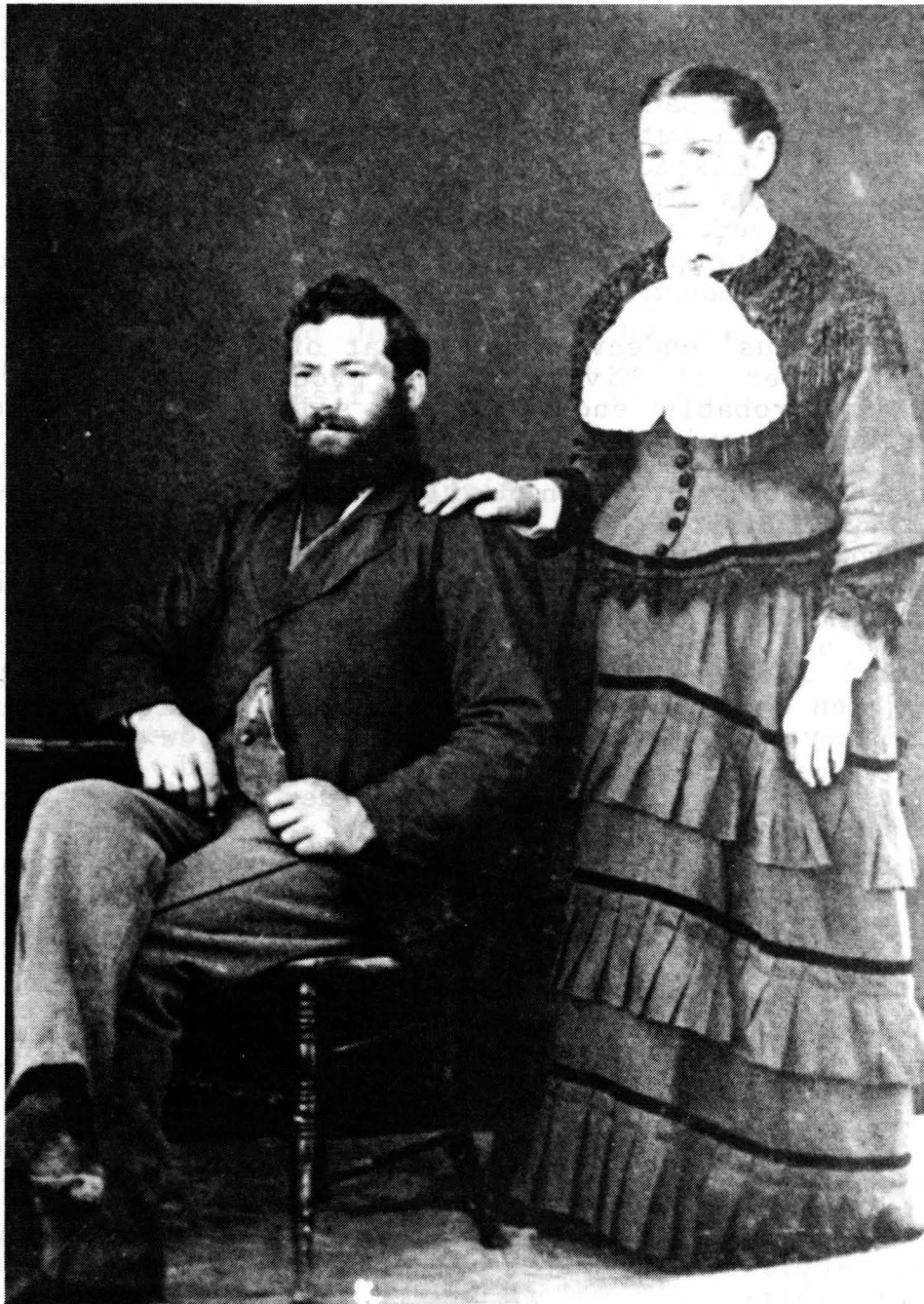
Julius now aged sixty six years, built a four roomed cottage on one of the sections in Rongotea, alongside an existing home which had been occupied by his second son. It was in this home that the writer grew up. Here Julius lived, planted an orchard and tended to his bees until his death in 1935, aged 84 years.

Perhaps a final tribute to him could be summed up in the following article which appeared in the Rongotea Jubilee booklet of 1951:-

"Mr Julius Simonsen was one who faced the realities of pioneer settlement in this place and won out. In striking contrast with a life of world wide travel and adventure, spent in the open spaces, the decision Mr Simonsen made to

make his home in a sparsely settled area such as Rongotea, over seventy years ago, hemmed in by bush, lacking means of communication, faced with discomfort and privation, was a remarkable one. Apart from his farm, Mr Simonsen's principal interest was in the Lutheran Church, a branch of which he was largely responsible for establishing in Rongotea".

Contributed by Gordon Simonsen



Julius and Johanna Simonsen.

THE EARLY LUTHERAN PASTORS

The Lutheran Church was originally built in 1882. One of the prime instigators was Viggo Monrad, who was trustee for the congregation and sold shares to other Scandinavians. He bought two sections on the corner of Main and Domain Streets where the Cafe de Paris now stands. In 1892 when a decision was made to shift the Railway Station from the centre of the Square to Main Street, the area around the church became a busy commercial centre, therefore a more suitable location was sought. The church building was transported by a team of oxen to a new site in Church Street. Not an easy task but nevertheless achieved. Over the years there were many alterations and improvements made to this building. In 1905 with the aid of rollers the church was shifted 90 degrees and a large extension built on the Church Street frontage. This addition provided seating for 200 people while the old building became the chancel and two school rooms. All these buildings were demolished and replaced by a new Lutheran Church in 1987.

Even although the early Pastors and their families received very small remuneration the lack of money never deterred them from opening their homes and hearts to anyone who needed a meal, bed or advice on how to cope in a new land.

PASTOR CHRISTOFFER GAUSTAD was the first Pastor to serve the Palmerston North congregation. He was a Norwegian born in Trondheim 1838. He trained in the Gossner Mission school in Berlin and was sent as a missionary to Bengal, India in 1864. The heat was too much for him and in 1869 he went to Australia where he preached in both German and Norwegian to emigrants in Brisbane. There he met a young Dane, George Sass, and ordained him into the ministry. When Pastor Sass went to New Zealand in 1878, Pastor Gaustad followed two years later, settled in Palmerston North with his wife and children, and served this city and Halcombe plus Eketahuna and Mauriceville. Conflict arose between the two Pastors, (not just about theological matters either) and in the end Pastor Gaustad retired to Halcombe, bought a farm there and served only that congregation. Pastor Gaustad was very knowledgeable about medicine although he had no qualifications. He was well known for his treatments and there were many stories about his successful cures.

PASTOR GEORG SASS was born on the island of Lolland in 1854 so he was 16 years younger than Pastor Gaustad. He was 19 years old when he arrived in Australia. On the voyage to Australia an outbreak of Typhoid occurred and many died. Georg Sass was near death and that experience made him decide to give his life to the Lord and preach the Gospel. He worked at felling bush and as a farm hand until ordained. In 1878 Pastor Sass was told that thousands of Scandinavians in New Zealand had no Pastor to preach to them in their native tongue and since many

of them knew no English, a pastor was urgently needed. He sailed for New Zealand in July and was well received everywhere. He decided to settle in Norsewood which was the most central spot in his large parish and lived there in a manse with 7 acres until 1886 when he shifted to Makaretu for two years, before coming to Palmerston North. Pastor Sass used his abundant energy to consolidate the church's work in the Manawatu, and guided many new Pastors in their vocation. In 1893 Pastor Sass returned to Denmark and decided to remain there.

PASTOR MADS CHRISTENSEN came to New Zealand in 1886 and was called to Mauriceville and ordained in the church there 19th December. He stayed there until 1893 and reluctantly accepted the call to Palmerston North when Pastor Sass left. The congregation here was rather scattered. Many members lived in Kairanga and the Longburn area and all the way down Foxton Line. There were also a number of Scandinavians in Whakarongo and attempts were made to have services in their private homes and in Bunnythorpe but without much success. Pastor Christensen lived in Church Street, but he bought 4 1/2 acres between Church and Ferguson Streets, not far from Botanical Road. There was a house on the property and he leased that and most of the land and thereby got 15 shillings per week to help him pay off the mortgage. The family had a couple of cows and made their own butter but not for themselves to eat - it was sold!! There was a big vegetable garden and clothing was hand-me-downs or second hand clothes that were re-sewn. Pastor Mads had no horse and cart for his own use but took the train when he went visiting and walked the rest of the way. In his later life he was very conscious of his failing health but still kept up his services, meetings and visits to his members. He was very happy when his son Ansgar decided to become a minister and was able to take over the duties of Pastor in 1928. Pastor Mads Christensen died of Pneumonia in December 1929 after being bedridden for six months.

PASTOR ANSGAR CHRISTENSEN'S yearly salary in 1928 was 250 Pounds and with that he had to pay for his own house, telephone, transport, and he paid for the production and printing of the fortnightly church paper "Lutheran Herald". With the depression years of the 1930's it wasn't possible for the congregation to raise his salary and he had to sell his house in Church Street and shift to Slacks Road in 1938. He bought four acres, milked four cows and sold the milk. The family tried to be as self-sufficient as possible with a big vegetable garden and poultry. Pastor Ansgar had received his training at Dana College, Nebraska, U.S.A. The College trained in the strict and puritan belief of the "Inner Mission". No work on Sunday, only Bible readings. No dancing, card playing or gambling, not too much laughter, life was serious business. This outlook was widespread over Scandinavia in the 18th and 19th century, but had become outmoded. No wonder Pastor Ansgar was very sad when one day in 1930 he read in the paper that one of the older members of the church had held a big function to celebrate the building of a new barn. Several public figures and many church members had been there and both dancing and card playing were reported. The Gospel text for the next Sunday was Mark 9, 42-50 "And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were

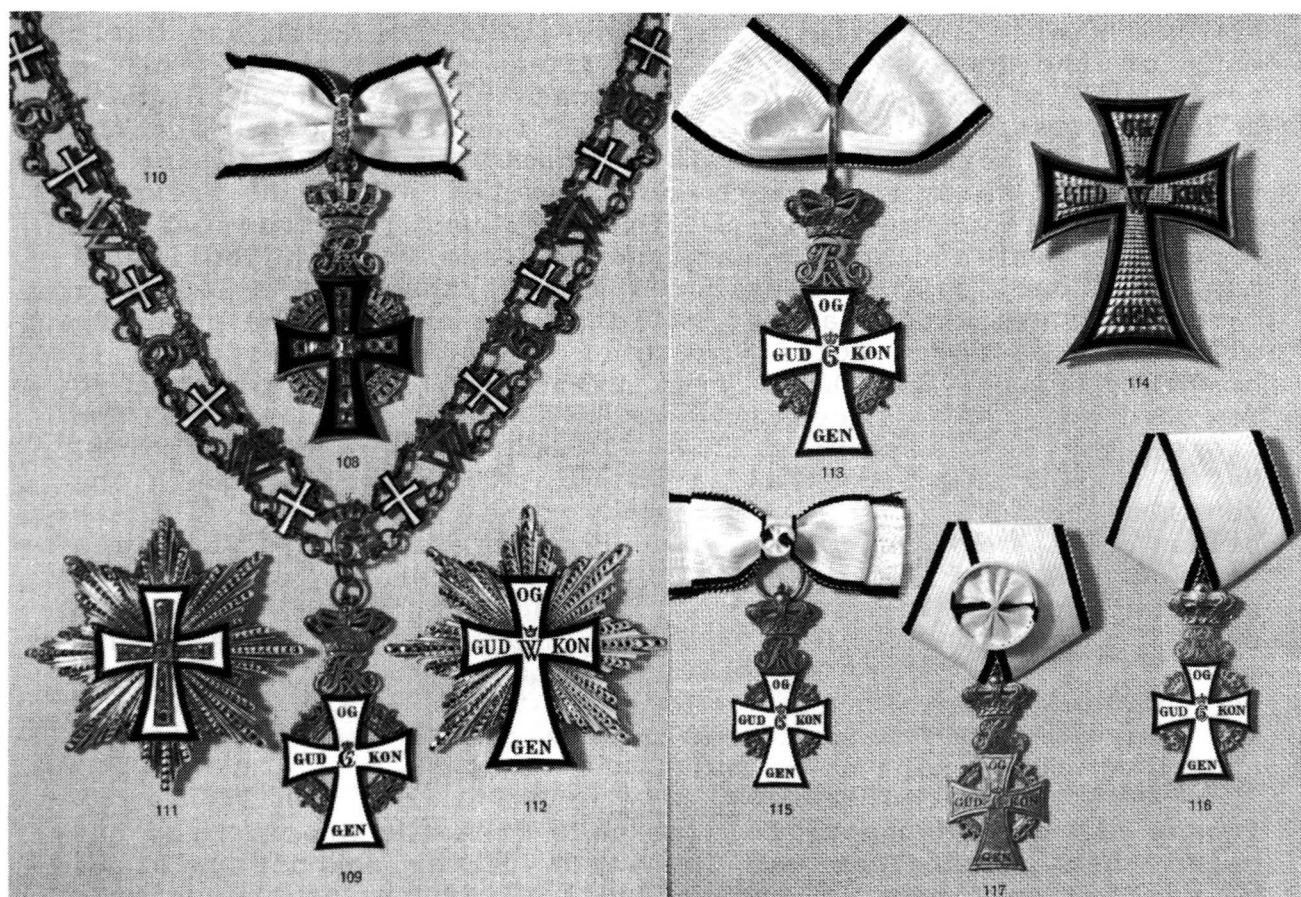
hanged around his neck, and he were cast into the sea". In November 1956 Pastor Ansgar had the "Order of Dannebrog" conferred on him by King Frederik for services to the Danish people in New Zealand. This was presented to him by George C Petersen one Sunday after church and something completely unheard of happened - the whole congregation clapped. But Pastor Ansgar's health was broken. He had never been strong and hard work and money worries had worn him out. He died 7th March 1958 - and with him a chapter was closed.

(For further reading see the excellent booklet "St Luke's Lutheran Church 1882-1982".

Contributed by Bodil Petersen

THE ORDER OF THE DANNEBROG

This Order was founded on 12 October 1671 by King Christian V as, it is said, a renewal of the older Order of the Dannebrog founded by King Valdemar II, the Conqueror, after the Battle of Reval in 1219. Legend has it that the Danes were hard pressed at this battle so King Valdemar II asked for Divine help and down from the sky came the red and white flag of Denmark, later to be known as Dannebrog. According to the statutes of 1st December 1693, the Order was to comprise 50 noble Knights in one class only, but by letters patent of 28th June 1808 King Frederik VI extended it to become "an outward token of recognised civic merit" for "all subjects irrespective of position or class".



DENMARK

The Order of the Dannebrog: 108. Badge of the Order, Grand Commander, Ladies' Bow. - 109. Badge of the Order, Grand Cross. - 110. Collar of the Order. - 111. Star of the Order, Grand Cross 'with diamonds'. - 112. Star of the Order, Grand Commander and Grand Cross.

DENMARK

113. Badge of the Order, Commander, 1st Degree and Commander. - 114. Breast Cross, Commander, 1st Degree. - 115. Badge of the Order, Knight, 1st Degree, Ladies' Bow. - 116. Badge of the Order, Knight. - 117. The Silver Cross of the Order of the Dannebrog.

ABRAHAM du FRESNE

Abraham du Fresne was born in Fredericia on 20 July 1862 into a Huguenot family.

Many Huguenots had fled France in the 1660's to escape religious persecution, and some of them finally settled in Fredericia in 1719, where they planted and sold tobacco. When Danish tobacco gave way to American tobacco many of the Huguenots turned to building and architecture.

Abraham du Fresne was a tradesman carpenter when he decided to emigrate to New Zealand where several families from Fredericia already had settled. After arriving in Palmerston North in 1890, he met Anne Helene Margrethe Clausen (born in Haderslev on 6 May 1875, a daughter of Anders Niels Clausen, who had arrived in the country in 1876.

They were married in Palmerston North, most probably in the Lutheran Church on 28 May 1899, and had eight children of whom no. 3, Carl Abraham, drowned in the Mangaone Stream, aged 8 years.

Abraham started a building firm in Palmerston North and built many of the houses in town, and around the district in the early 1900's. One house was "Kaingahou" on Pioneer Highway and it was said it took Ditlev Monrad two years to pay for the house which cost £800. His son Harold du Fresne claims to have talked to many farmers who remember A. H. du Fresne's fast and efficient work. If the work was far from base he brought a tent and set up camp on the farm while he built. A man on Robert's Line remembered how Abraham was building a 4-roomed house with lean-to, building the chimney and papering all the rooms for a total wage bill of £50 - 8 shillings. If he heard that young Danes from Fredericia wanted to come to New Zealand, he offered them work in his firm, and at one stage, is said to have had 22 people working for him. Unfortunately the financial situation became worse through the years as people found it more and more difficult to pay their bills. His books show that he wrote dozens of letters in a very formal and dignified way to his debtors. "I cannot believe that you as an Englishman and a gentleman can sleep sound in your bed at night knowing that you owe me all this money". But apparently, all his letter writing didn't help because he went bankrupt during the first World War, and it was only with the help of his wife's family that he salvaged enough to buy a farm near Levin.

Yvonne his granddaughter told me that from the stories she had heard, her grandfather was the worst farmer anyone could be. He was too soft hearted and wouldn't allow any of the animals to be killed. The farm was full of pensioned off old cows and other animals and Abraham would tell his children and grandchildren amusing stories about them.

The animals were all named and some of them even had their photos taken and put in an album. Now and then his wife caught a hen and cooked it for dinner, but if anyone mentioned

the hen's name, he would leave the table. As you can imagine, his farming venture didn't go too well, and he sold the farm and moved to Eastbourne, where he had bought a piece of land earlier on. He and his sons Albert and Chris who were also builders, bought houses which they repaired and painted, and then resold. Later, they moved to Johnsonville where Abraham du Fresne died 17.11.1941. It was from a mysterious crippling disease which hit many of the male members of those French families. They had kept marrying into the same old French families which were already intermarried in France (The rest of the family was very happy that he married a Danish girl out here and brought some fresh blood into the family).

Abraham had been a member of the Danish Boy's Choir, and had toured Europe, in his youth. He was a good singer, had a sharp wit, and was very charming, especially to the ladies.

Yvonne remembers his skill at telling stories, his laughter and his blazing blue eyes.

Compiled by Bodil Petersen



"KAINGAHOU" This photo taken in 1990 shows the lasting quality of Abraham du Fresne's building skills.

SAMUEL PETER HANSON 1862-1940

When my grandfather Peter sailed to New Zealand with his family on the "Electra" he was 7 years old. His father's name was also Peter, born in Christiania December 1824, ran away to sea at a tender age of 14, married Eliza Begg in 1855 and had settled in the London dock area, then decided to emigrate.

John and Duncan Sinclair owned a large estate with a steam sawmill in Wainuiomata. Peter, my grandfather worked for them as a farmhand when he was very young, then moved on to Pahiatua and worked as a surveyor's assistant and bushman in the Forty Mile bush, later shifted to Levin where he bought a small government holding at Weraroa, married and settled down. Peter married Annie Aldridge in All Saints Church, Palmerston North on 3rd January 1891. In Levin he farmed his small block as well as working for John Prouse's sawmill for many years.

He was a keen sportsman and spent many weekends pig-hunting, shooting, and fishing with a net at Levin beach. As an athlete he was a fast runner and competed with success in the first sports meeting held in Levin. Peter was also an accomplished accordion player and used to play for many dances; he also played the cornet in the Levin band.

Peter and Annie had six children who were all born in Levin: Anita in 1891, Victor in 1894, Harold in 1896, Norman in 1898, Redvers (Reg) in 1900, and Leslie (my father) in 1904.

Giving up farming at Weraroa, the family shifted to Palmerston North in 1906. Here they took over a property at Fitzherbert East near Anzac Park. A number of setbacks were experienced on the farm - "the cows kept falling over the cliff into the river". The eldest boys went to Aokautere school.

Three years later Peter retired from farming and shifted into town. He found employment at Cook and Sons sawmill in Main Street, between Princess Street and Victoria Avenue, where the knitting mill is today.

The family lived for a while in a cottage in Campbell Street and Victor, Harold, Norman and Reg went to Campbell Street school over the road. Another shift was to houses in the Terrace End area of Church and Broad Streets. (Broadway).

My father Leslie has many memories of his school days at Terrace End school where he attended until the great influenza epidemic of 1919. He also recounts many adventures and tragedies, playing with his friends and older brother Reg, while living here.

They liked to play after school in the huge metal pit in Main Street. Here there was a small railway line and wagons going down to the bottom. One boy was killed jumping between the moving wagons; this is now Memorial Park. Another play area was a further "out of bounds" metal pit beside Terrace End

School. The school's playground was very small, a board fence ran down the middle, to segregate the boys and girls at playtime and lunchtimes. On Wednesday afternoons there was a half day holiday in the town, they liked to climb up to sit on the back fence at the school. Here they had a free view of the greyhound racing track with its grandstand backing onto the rear of the houses in Alfred Street. They could watch the hares released one at a time and two greyhounds set free to chase them; more often than not they were caught before they reached the end of the run and disappeared into their compound.

The boys used to like paddling bare feet along the gutters full of warm water near the Manawatu flour mill, where Melody's supermarket is today. The source of this warm water was the overflow from the steam boiler supplying power to the large corrugated iron building which was the flour mill. Sacks of wheat would arrive in railway wagons and they were towed across the road by powerful horses, to disappear into the mill.

My father recounts other interesting happenings in these early years before World War One. One very exciting evening in 1910 he watched with his brothers as Sollitt's sawmill burnt down. The Terrace End Volunteer Fire Brigade attended with its horse-drawn machine with a hand hose, which proved of little use. This small volunteer fire brigade was located on the site of the present Legion of Frontiersmen, and served this area of the town. The main fire brigade probably attended as well; it was located in the Coleman Mall. Sollitt's mill was originally built by Peter Bartholomew in the 1860s, before he shifted to Levin.

Another interesting happening was the closing of the school early one day, owing to a very large bush fire as far away as Ohakune, causing the town to be almost blacked out with smoke. Bushfires were not uncommon then and in summer evenings long stretches of 'twinkling lights' could be seen on the ranges. These were bushfires burning to clear the native bush for farming.

The school children were very excited when the time came at the beginning of the school year for the annual school picnic. The children travelled by train to Plimmerton, departing from the Terrace End railway station. The school also went to picnics in the Ashhurst Domain by train.

About this time Peter Hanson had a serious accident at the sawmill, logs rolled onto him from a stack and broke both his legs. After a long spell in hospital he retired to the home he had bought in Linton Street during the war. Peter died on 2nd April 1940 and Annie in August 1952 aged 86 after a long life of hard work and caring for others.

*Compiled by Beryl Brocklebank
Margaret Harrison
Jack Hanson*

HANS PETER FABRIN and MAREN JULIA nee JORGENSEN

In 1890 my grandparents arrived in New Zealand. Hans Peter Hansen Fabrin and Maren Julia Jorgensen had both come from Southern Denmark which at that time was occupied by Germany, and no doubt this was a contributing factor in deciding to emigrate. They were married in the Bethania Lutheran Church, Makaretu, Hawke's Bay on 14th January 1891 by Paster Legarth. Apparently they stayed in the Makaretu district for 3 years and this is where the eldest child Marie was born. Makaretu in those days had quite a number of Scandinavians living in the area so it was obviously a place where new settlers, such as themselves, could feel at ease until they became adjusted to a new country and could make a decision on where to make their home. While in the Hawke's Bay, tragedy struck the family when Hans had an accident working in a metal pit. This resulted in having his leg amputated just below the knee, and from that time he used a "peg-leg". His grandchildren were always rather intrigued with the wooden leg.

Hans and Julia decided on a farm life and moved to Sangsters Road, Bunnythorpe in 1894 where the rest of the children were born - Peter, Mathias, Martha, Ruth, Lydia and Johannes (Mathias died in infancy). Hans was a farmer who took great care of his stock. Their welfare was essential and he was always distressed to hear of an animal suffering. The wooden leg certainly was no handicap to him when he cut grass with a scythe. Backwards and forwards he would skilfully swing the scythe with an even rhythm that made the job look easy. The Lutheran Church played an important part in family life, and the Church's doctrines at that particular time were very strict. Life was to be lived in a very sedate manner with no frivolity. Bright clothing was frowned upon. Therefore the arrival of a brand new "phaeton" at the railway station was a day to be remembered. My mother spoke of the occasion and one can imagine the excitement of the children when they travelled to church in their new horse-drawn vehicle. The children always helped with work around the farm. Every birthday they were "promoted" to a more responsible job.

Julia passed away in 1917. She was spared the knowledge that the following year her eldest son Peter would be killed in action in France during World War I.

Hans travelled many miles to do lay preaching for the Lutheran Church especially in the Norsewood and Wairarapa areas. He later remarried a widow from Mauriceville - Inger Marie Hansen. At about this period Hans left Bunnythorpe and lived in Norsewood until 1925 when he and Inger returned to the Manawatu for their retirement. They bought a house in Ruahine Street, between Papaioea Park and Grey Street. The property was in excess of 1/2 acre.

It is during this period that I can remember my Grandfather. I can still picture him in the large vegetable garden bending over his spade, wearing his old panama hat. Potatoes were always the main crop. Often folk would ask to buy his potatoes

but he would give them a bag and refuse payment. Maybe he could remember the poor conditions in Denmark, when as a small boy he asked for more food only to be severely reprimanded.

In the later years he enjoyed reading his books. He would sit in the kitchen, slowly rocking in his chair, wearing silver rimmed narrow spectacles. Grandfather had never shaved in his life although he often asked for a spejl and saks (mirror and scissors) to trim his beard. At the age of 88 he passed away.

Contributed by Rodney Nielsen



TUG-OF-WAR 1892

In 1892 a new hospital was needed in Palmerston North and Mrs Snelson inspired the community to take up the challenge. Fund raising activities were as varied as one could imagine - from Baby Contests to Fancy Dress Balls. A Tug of War contest proved to be an entertaining and successful fund raiser. Mrs Snelson's Scrap Book which is held at the Palmerston North Library provides us with extracts from newspaper reports of that period.

"Mr L.G. West has succeeded in gathering two teams of Danes for the Tug of War contest, and on Saturday evening the first practice was held. The teams form a fine powerful body of men, and they will take a lot of beating. The prize-money, if won by either of these teams will be handed over to the hospital building fund"

A later report:-

"The prevailing epidemic which has been wafted to our shores from Australia some few weeks ago, and known as the tug of war, developed to the pulling point last night in Palmerston amongst an audience of some four or five hundred people. -- When the Danes and the Scandinavians met, then came a Tug of War! Both teams were well matched, and both were determined, but the descendants of the unconquerable Norse had to give way to the ever-mastering pulls of the wiry Dane, who won the day. Much surprise was caused by the Welsh pulling the Danes over after a hard fight, which would tend to make the audience lay big odds in favour of the Colonial team. The orders of pulling for tonight will be as follows:

New Zealanders v Scandinavians
New Zealanders v Welsh
Danes v Welsh
Scandinavians v Welsh

Teams from the Manawatu Daily Times and Manawatu Standard offices will also pull".

Who won?? If any reader can solve the mystery we would be delighted to hear from them!! - *Valda Nielsen*

ON BOARD THE "OROTAWA"

The following extracts have been taken from a diary written by Miss Karen Margrethe Larsen who emigrated from Denmark in 1892. In 1894 Karen married Mr John Hansen in the Lutheran Church, Palmerston North and they continued to live in the Manawatu. Mr and Mrs Hansen were both very well known in the Carnarvon area.

27th February

At 8 the ship left London, all well. Sailed in beautiful weather but cold.

1st March

Very seasick, not out of bed. Heard that the Spanish coast could be seen. Fine weather.

2nd March

Well today and on deck. The Spanish coast to be seen on one side of the ship and the coast of Africa on the other, later Gibraltar, a beautiful small town situated on the slopes of the cliffs right from the top and down to the shore. Anchored in the harbour. A lot of traders came out with oranges and lemons, figs, cigars and tobacco, which is cheap here. It looks like chocolate, as it is in plugs. There was a scramble to and fro on the ship to get a share of the lovely things. I bought a basket of figs for 1 shilling and there were 6 lbs or more. It is lovely weather. We were here only for a couple of hours.

3rd March

Didn't see anything but the sky and the sea. All well. We begin to feel the heat here in the Mediterranean. Concert and dance tonight for 3rd class passengers.

10th March

At 9 in the morning we arrived at Port Said. Here we saw the first sharks tumbling in the water and after that we saw the Danish flag being hoisted on another ship as we ran into the harbour, not to land but very close. Here our ship got coal and water. It was a life, rich in changes. There were at least one thousand people carrying coal and in spite of every care to prevent coal dust on the passengers deck, both the deck and the rest of us were as black as anything. The ship which is so beautiful with its white-paint, was coal-black and so were all the people.

11th March

In the Suez Canal. Perfect summer. There are a number of buildings along the Canal, 5 miles between them. They are very beautiful and inhabited by Europeans. Round these houses there were some nice gardens with palms and some lovely red flowers, strange because everything outside is just sand, the real sand deserts, long stretches of sand in banks right down to the Canal itself.

23rd March

Early on deck, the loveliest morning I have seen. Soon after I came on deck we had land in sight. It was a beautiful sight in the lovely morning. At 7 o'clock we arrived at Colombo with all its pride, the first natural beauty and the first green except for the small gardens by the Suez canal. The first thing we saw was a great pier from which there was a railway up to the town. Then we rounded the pier and were in the harbour where we anchored. Then the boats began to come out to the ship, long and narrow like a pig trough. We had hardly stopped before the ship was full of naked people. Only a few had clothes on or just a strap, children nothing, they were brown and black all over the body, but didn't look very savage. They looked kind and I was not so scared of them as of those at Port Said. But finally one could hardly move for naked people.

9th April

Fine weather. At 2 o'clock we arrived at Sydney. It takes a wiser head than mine to describe the entrance to Sydney. It has some of the most wonderful sights one could see. There are harbours and harbours, one by the other with high cliffs built by nature. Yes we look and look and do not know to which side of the ship we should look, as on one side there is a cliff with lovely green forest with nice houses scattered between the trees and on the other side a small township with everything so beautiful. So we run from one side of the ship to the other and I look so much my head is aching.

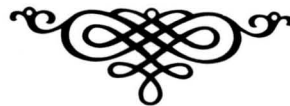
17 April

Easter Sunday. A very strong storm. We have not had such weather before on the voyage. Sometimes it was as if the ship would be buried in the waves but it hasn't frightened me and I feel quite well. In the evening we anchored near the coast for the night. It has been a hard day for the sailors. Funny how one gets encouraged at sea, so that one doesn't get frightened of this weather.

18 April

Easter Monday. I have never experienced such an unpleasant Easter in all my life, but now we have reached the end of our voyage. At 10-30 we see Wellington on the slopes of the mountains, at 11 the ship goes to berth and then we are in New Zealand. There were two Swedish people from Sydney and it was our luck, they were also going to Palmerston. They had been there before. They had been to Sydney to attend a doctor. Then we got our luggage at the customs, and our large case was opened - just opened and shut. Our hand luggage they didn't want to look at, so people can buy as much tobacco as they like on the way to New Zealand. Then we went to the railway station and our luggage was carried over there for three shillings. The Swedes told us, that a train would be leaving for Palmerston at 1 o'clock, but when we got there it proved to be wrong. It was a holiday and there was no train before 6 in the evening. Then we went out to look at the town, but it wasn't much good as I was too tired to walk. Wellington is between the mountains, and it is difficult to breathe, it is like coming into the back-yards of Copenhagen, looking up at the tall houses. It is a large town, but I don't like the mountains. We started walking up one, but didn't get very far. At 6 in the evening we left Wellington. It was really a pity to leave in the evening, as there would have been so much to look at. We came through a lot of tunnels through the mountains. It was a tiring trip to Palmerston, where we arrived at 11-30. The train doesn't go any further. Then the Swedes led us to a boarding house, where we slept that night. The tickets from Wellington to Palmerston were 12 shillings 6 pence.

Contributed by Angela Finnerty



THE ENGLAND

The second party of Scandinavians bound for Manawatu sailed into Wellington on the "England" 19th March 1871. The Evening Post has reports of the ship's arrival on 20th March 1871;-but no mention of the immigrants.

"The ship England from London, Harrington master, arrived in harbour yesterday after a passage of 104 days from port to port. -- The ship was signalled early yesterday morning and at a little after 4 o'clock was seen coming round the point. A large number of boats at once put off to her and a number of gentlemen went aboard to welcome Bishop Viard and Father O'Reilly on their return to the colony. Instead of anchoring in the fairway as English ships usually do on arrival, Mr Holmes the pilot brought her right up and anchored her just off the outer T of the Queens Wharf. There was an immediate rush on board, all the available boats being pressed into service. The wharf was densely crowded, and the excitement was great when the venerable figures of the Bishop and Father O'Reilly were seen on deck shaking hands with each new arrival on board".

The Scandinavian immigrants then continued their journey to Manawatu on board the steam ship "Go A Head" and sailed into Foxton on 8th April 1871.

Contributed by June Gosnell

Newspaper Reports courtesy Wellington Maritime Museum

PETER HANSEN MY GRANDFATHER

*Babies haven't any hair,
Old men's heads are just as bare.
Between the cradle and the grave,
Lies a haircut and a shave. - Samuel Hoffenstein*

My recollections of my grandfather, Peter Hansen, seem to apply only to the second line of the above quotation. Peter was born in 1873 and by the time I came into the world, he was in his late eighties.

His birthplace was the famous Danish city of Odense, where he would have had some form of education up to the year 1887. We have work references from this date onwards.

My grandfather was a tall man. At some time he was in the Royal Danish Guards. His father was a grain merchant and Peter's line of work was in a similar field - gardening.

He worked at such places as Juelsborg, a splendid 18th century manor-house, Egeskov Castle in Odense, Horsens in Jylland, and then went to Vienna, Austria. From there, he travelled to Budapest, Hungary, and finally arrived at the port of Wellington on 14th December 1898, aboard the "Ophir".

Being a market gardener and horticulturist, he was very keen to buy land in New Zealand, so when the Saunders Estate, west of Palmerston North, became available for settlement, my grandfather applied. He was lucky, and on the 27th of December 1899, he drew Lot 42, at Te Arakura, which was 12 acres in total. About 11 acres had been cleared with the remaining 1 acre still in native bush. There was no house and only a road fence.

He built a house which stood on that same site until the 1960's when my cousin purchased the old homestead, and replaced it with a new dwelling.

Early photos show that life on the farm was hard, but he grew tomatoes and grapes in his glasshouses, had a few cows, pigs, hens, etc which all helped to make life a little bit easier.

In 1906 he married Mary Ellen Duncalf who was English by birth. They had four children, the last son Norman, being my father.

As time went by, my grandfather became more and more interested in dairy farming, and after acquiring extra land (12 acres and then 37 acres), he had achieved his New Zealand dream.

Grandad was a public-minded citizen, and he was often host to various people from Denmark. The crew from the vessel "Dana", which sailed around the world between 1928-30, stayed at his house. The "Dana" was a research vessel, as was the "Galatea", which visited New Zealand between 1950 and 1952.

Peter received a medal struck by King Frederick IX of Denmark in recognition of the assistance he gave to the "Galatea" crew. Three other local men also were awarded this medal. They were G.C. Petersen, O. Monrad and N.P Nielsen.

The Awahuri Co-op Dairy Factory Company Ltd was formed in 1897 and from 1909 until at least 1947, he was their director and/or chairman. He was also a director of the Co-operative Dairy Producers Freezing Company Limited, which meant he had to travel to Wellington for monthly meetings.

The New Zealand Danish Association had a branch in Palmerston North and my grandfather was a keen member. His knowledge of the Danish language was very good right up to his death, although his English was always very broken and at times hard for me to understand. Over the years, many letters and parcels from Denmark would arrive at his "hus", and if I was lucky he would give me the stamps, which I still have to this day.

In 1952, when Grandad was 79 years old, the Danish King bestowed upon him and Oscar Monrad, the Danish Order of the Knight of Dannebrog. This was a great honour for Grandad as previously in New Zealand, the Order had only been bestowed - to Johannes Anderson in 1947. My grandfather was awarded the Order in recognition of his work in fostering good relations between Denmark and New Zealand.

Peter Hansen was a man of deeds rather than words. I am proud to say he was my grandfather.

Contributed by John Hansen



Mr Peter Hansen outside his first home at Te Arakura.

CARL JOHN BOMAN

Karl Johan Boman was born on 11th November 1875 to Anthony Boman, a Customs Officer, and his wife named Caroline (re: Carl's Death Certificate) or Anna (re: Family Tradition), at Stromstad, 25 kilometres north of Gothenberg in Sweden, a fishing village and now a popular tourist resort.

He arrived in Wellington about 1901, on a yet to be traced cargo ship, the Glenmark. There, he jumped ship and set off up the Ngauranga Gorge with 1/6d in his pocket. Along the road he met Reg Wall, a Pukerua Bay landowner, who gave him a job on his farm there. He remained at Pukerua Bay for some years and was naturalised there, as Carl John Boman, on 27th May 1911, and described as a farm manager.

On 25 April 1912 he married Caroline Louise Harper at Pukerua Bay. Caroline, who was from London, had recently arrived on the Ionic, ostensibly on holiday. They continued to live in the Bay, on a hill overlooking the main highway north from Wellington, and the little blue-roofed house can still be seen looking down on north-bound travellers. Their family began to arrive on 2 February 1913, with the birth of twins, Alma and a boy Ashley, who died three months later. Olga was also born there in 1914.

The family then moved to Kairanga, Palmerston North, where Carl again managed a farm for Reg Wall. Here Beryl (1915) and John (1918) were born. Then in the late 1920s, Carl purchased a dairy farm for himself, from Oscar Monrad. This was on Milson Line, between Flyers Line and Kairanga-Bunnythorpe Road. The children attended first Newbury, then Milson Schools.

While his son John was overseas with the Middle East Forces, Carl died suddenly, on 19th June 1945, aged 69. Caroline Boman died 9th August 1949, aged 64, and both are interred in the Kelvin Grove Cemetery, Palmerston North.

Contributed by V.L.M. Boman

(Footnote:- Vera Boman, formerly McLennan, (nee Burr), compiled the book 'From Stoney Creek to Whakarongo, 1877-1977', the history of that district, including the local Scandinavian history. She is the granddaughter of Anders Christian and Marie Christensen; and the step-granddaughter of Ola Persson and Perrine Martine Dahlstrom. Both of these families are covered in this book).

THE LAURIDSEN FAMILY

It was in 1907 that the Lauridsen family arrived from Denmark to settle in Palmerston North. This, however, was not their first acquaintance with New Zealand. In 1895 Mr and Mrs Hans Jorgen Lauridsen with their small son, Johannes (John) arrived in Napier, settled in the Norsewood area and remained there for about 10 years. A further four children, Katrine, Anne, Peder and Eleonora were added to the family during that first period of residence in New Zealand. Mr Lauridsen worked mainly at bush clearing, and as with most of the early settlers, the family kept one or two cows and tried to be self sufficient in food requirements as far as possible. "Lille Mor" cared for the family and at one time in particular, bravely faced the threat of fire which threatened their worldly possessions - and their lives.

Because of the difficult conditions of pioneering life in New Zealand at the time, the family moved back to Denmark in 1905 but returned to New Zealand two years later, this time to the Manawatu. When they decided to return to New Zealand in 1907, Mr Lauridsen agreed to go on ahead and arrange a home for the family while "Mor" with the then six children followed on another ship. The family luggage was misplaced in Europe so the mother and children found that they had only those clothes that they were wearing. Their predicament soon became known to other passengers on the ship so it wasn't long before some material was provided by kind passengers, sewing machines were brought out and during the long voyage to New Zealand the fellow passengers were able to provide for the family a new set of clothes which they proudly wore on their arrival in Wellington.

Mr Lauridsen, who was a blacksmith by trade, leased a blacksmith shop in George Street, Palmerston North, in the vicinity of the present Odeon Theatre. Woodfield's Stables existed adjacent to the blacksmith shop on the site later occupied by the Government Buildings. Kristen (Chris), the youngest son of the family was born in Denmark in 1905 and one more child, Alma, was born in 1909 after the family arrived in Palmerston North.

In 1911 the family moved to Linton having purchased a farm at Whitmore Road from Mr J.C. Shere, and this became the family home for more than 30 years. In addition to their own seven children the family home also became "home" for several other children who needed care at various times. Mr and Mrs Lauridsen became known as "Far" and "Mor" not only in their own family circle but also to neighbours, friends and members of the wider Danish community of the Manawatu. The Danish language was almost always used in the family home and the ancestral roots were never forgotten.

Probably the most important link between Danish families during those years was their association with the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Palmerston North where many Danes found bonds of friendship and fellowship as members of that Church. The week-night Bible Class at the Church in the early 1920s was

attended by the young people of the Lauridsen household along with many other young Danes in the Manawatu. Many stories could be told of the perils of travel to and from Palmerston North for Church activities, travelling either by gig or motorbikes over rough unsealed roads. On frosty nights John, who had suffered polio as an infant, was told to drive the horse and gig while the other family members got off and ran in order to keep warm. At least, John was allowed to get inside to the warmth of their home while the others uncoupled the horse and took off its harness.

In addition to providing a focal point of common interest for the Danish community, the Church under the wise and caring guidance of Pastor Mads Christensen, and later his son, Ansgar, saw the development of a strong Christian faith in the lives of those under its influence. Members of the Lauridsen family left the Lutheran Church in later years to attend other denominations, but the Christian foundation laid in those early years always remained with them.

"Far" Lauridsen continued to do a certain amount of blacksmithing at his farm at Linton and there always seemed to be horses to be broken in and farm equipment to build or repair. He built a very efficient horse-drawn gate sweep that was used in haymaking on the farms of the district over many years prior to the advent of the more modern press.

The grand-children still have treasured memories of the celebration of Christmas at the family home at Linton - always held on Christmas Eve as is Scandinavian custom. A large decorated Christmas tree and a sumptuous meal, the peas having been freshly picked and the potatoes freshly dug from Far's garden. Then the time of present sharing, to be followed by Far reading again the Christmas story.

Contributed by Walter Lauridsen



Hans Jorgen Lauridsen's Blacksmith Shop, George St., Palmerston North (Approx. in the area of the present Odeon Theatre). Photo shows H. J. Lauridsen shoeing the horse, which is held by his eldest son Johannes (John).

CHRISTIAN VILHELM HANSEN

Christian Vilhelm Hansen 1874-1953, born in Vejle, Jutland, Denmark, settled in Palmerston North in 1910 to raise his family. He leased, then bought 88 acres in Gillespies Line, Kairanga, Palmerston North.

For a short time prior to this he had lived at Linton, and prior to that he worked and lived at Mauriceville where he met and married Emma Cathrine Hansen.

Christian used a horse and cart to transport his possessions from Mauriceville to Linton, making the long journey through the Manawatu Gorge, a dirt track as it was then. The house he brought his family to, in Gillespies Line, was formerly owned by the Russell family. This house had been moved from close to Rangitikei Line, to a position not far from the Gillespies Homestead (now a historic home) and Flygers Line. At that time Gillespies Line did not exist as a road. At some point Christian arranged for running water to be laid to the house from the pipeline in Tremaine Avenue (then known as Boundary Road).

Later on, he commissioned Alfred Devantier, his friend of Danish descent, to build a home nearby. This house still stands and is owned by a member of the Manderson family. Christian and Emma made the grounds of their new home beautiful with Camellias, Azaleas, Viburnum, Magnolia, Pepper Tree, Forsythia, Monkey Puzzle, Rhododendron, Hydrangea, Roses, a pagoda with ferns on the dirt floor, and Laurel hedge, with a white wooden fence and gate. There was a gravel path with the edges of the lawns painted with oil or tar.

Christian used the 88 acres for dairying. He grew lucerne on the property and sold milk and cheese locally from a small business he named the Lucerne Dairy. He attempted to sell his milk in bottles which were imported from America through the firm of Mason Struthers, Dairy Merchants. Printed on the bottles were the words:

"C V Hansen, Lucerne Dairy, PO Box 340, Palmerston North, 20 ozs, One Imperial Pint".

It is believed that he was the first milkman in Palmerston North to sell his milk in bottles. At the time, around 1923, milk vendors in Wellington were using bottles.

For a period, Edward (Ted) Mattson was employed by Christian to cycle round the streets, canvassing clients to find out what the response would be to the sale of milk in bottles.

Christian's son, David, attempted to carry on the sale of milk using a horse drawn cart, and later a small van. The Depression was beginning to set in, so people were reluctant to part with the small extra charge to have their milk supplied in bottles, rather than dipped out from billies. He received very little support and the idea fell into disuse. The sale of milk to local clients ceased also. David's career came to an abrupt end; - but he had a profitable side line as a breeder and trainer of horses!

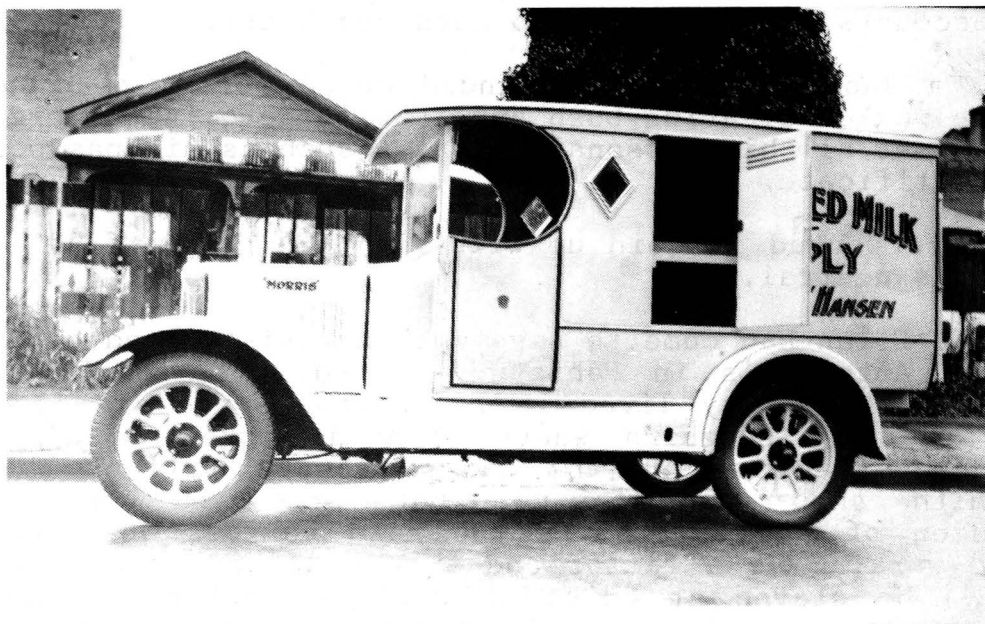
His first win was with the horse that pulled the milk cart before The Depression, King Franz. He secretly trained King Franz down the back of the farm as his father would not have approved (Christian lived by strict fundamentalist ideals). King Franz had 6 wins. Many successes were to come in later years with other horses.

Christian was very interested in the Maori leader and healer, Ratana. He kept clippings from the newspaper which told of the God-given healing powers of Ratana. He gave each of his sons an English name, a Maori name and the name of the family farm back in Denmark "Bassehave". He owned a Maori dictionary and also a phrase book written by Sister Aubert. He also named his cows tahi, rua, toru, wha, etc. (one, two, three, four, etc).

Christian did not take great care of himself after Emma died in 1947. He developed an infected foot after treading on a nail. This became worse, also he had poor circulation, and he eventually died from gangrene poisoning in 1953. In the last years he would laugh and joke with his Danish friend from Tangimoana, Viggo Hansen. They could relax together and speak Danish.

Two of Christian's great granddaughters have been teachers at Takaro School, Palmerston North, Shelley O'Connor and Anita Tufuga. A great grandson, Daniel Tufuga, is in the police force, but not locally.

Contributed by Marion Tufuga



David Hansen's early milk delivery van.

NILS KRISTIAN ROBERT OLSEN

My grandfather, Nils Kristian Robert Olsen, was born on the 9th of July 1890 in Tromsø, which is right up in Northern Norway. He was one of 10 children and along with his parents moved to Harstad, which is further South and was noted for its whaling stations. The farm has been in the family for over 300 years. The house is still standing and when my mother visited Norway in 1970, the house was in a sad state but has since been renovated and is now used as a holiday house by the family.

Grandad was christened and confirmed in the Trondenes Church in Harstad. This particular Church dates back to the 13th century. At the age of 13 Grandfather worked for an uncle in a ship building yard at Narvik not far from Harstad. He was there for a year learning the blacksmith and engineering trade and then at 14 he went on a sailing ship and left Norway for good.

We don't seem to know much about him for the next 8 years or so, apart from the fact that he worked in England on the Great Western Railway for a short time. He arrived in Wellington on the 13th April 1913 on the ship "Ionic".

Grandfather and a mate lived at the Peoples Palace, Wellington, where he met an Italian girl Ellen Moschini who was working there with a friend. I believe that as Bob and his mate walked into the room Ellen said "I'll have the good looking blond one and you can have the other one" and that's how it ended up; which accounts for me eating so much spaghetti!

Anyway, a short time later Grandad moved north to Dannevirke where he worked clearing bush and it was there in the big fire, that he lost all his personal papers - such as his passport and birth certificate.

In 1914 he wanted to join up with the army but was refused as Norway was neutral.

Meanwhile Ellen had come to live with her sister and brother in law, the Angelini's in Pahiatua. After Bob and Ellen were married in 1915 they lived in Palmerston North and 18 months later moved to Longburn where Grandad worked in the Dairy Factory. After leaving the Dairy Factory he took over the Blacksmith shop at Longburn, but lost that during the depression of the 20's. He then did various jobs until he started working as a fitter and turner and a stationary steam driver. He stayed at this job until he retired. His main hobby was trout fishing and he spent many happy hours in the Kahuterawa Stream.

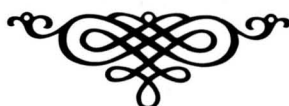
Their two children, Freida Ellen and Robert Nils were brought up in Longburn. Robert never married and spent a lot of time at sea. He passed away in 1985. Freida (my mother) married Len Woodmass in 1937 and had three children Nils (deceased) Ann and John.

During Mother's trip to Norway in 1970 she met her father's cousin Joakim and spent a few months staying with him. They visited the old homestead and places where the family had lived and worked. Correspondence was stimulated by her visit and made Norwegian life a reality to us. I still correspond with Joakim's son Gunnar.

Contributed by Ann Hill



Mrs Freida Woodmass and her cousin standing outside the ancestral home in Harstad, Norway.



THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

Paul Christiansen and Anna Oline Andersen left Denmark on different ships in 1913. Paul worked in Australia for a few months and it was on the voyage from Sydney to Wellington that Paul and Anna met and a courtship commenced. The ship berthed on 31st December 1913. Anna took up domestic duties with the Mayor and Mayoress of Foxton and Paul settled in Whakarongo where he purchased the property of the Whakarongo Dairy Company. He set up the business of blacksmithing of all types, and he was also the local coal merchant. This involved delivering coal to local residents.

Paul and Anna married in June 1915, and raised a family of six girls and one boy. Their christian names were: Christina, Emilie, Olga, Pauline, Hilda, Lilly and Peter. They all attended the Whakarongo School. Before and after school they took turns in helping to bag coal, shoe horses, make shoes, or even assist in the fitting of dray wheel tyres.

Paul Christiansen always made himself available to serve the community on the school and hall committees, while his wife, Anna, in her quiet way, gave tuition to many district girls, in needlework and other domestic duties.

The smithy's shop was always a great meeting place for the local farmers to have a morning gossip after delivering milk to the dairy factory by horse and cart. Most residents would have memories of the ever open door of the old home, and the welcome cup of coffee from the coffee pot percolating on the coal range - This coffee was a great help to a number of young men sneaking home after a hard night out!! A great sobering effect.

For the record books, the local smithy could lay claim to having owned one of the first cars in the district, an "Aldays and Onions two cylinder tourer".

At the Whakarongo dances, Paul showed his waltzing skills and his wife Anna was invariably "excused" by the local ladies - much to her disappointment.

Paul Christiansen passed away 7th June 1956 aged 71 years and Anna Christiansen passed away 27th March 1971, aged 81 years. Their son Peter still resides on his parents' property at Whakarongo and the other surviving members of the family are Pauline Cater (Auckland), Hilda Townshend (Palmerston North) and Lilly Spence (Gisborne).

Contributed by Hilda Townshend

GEORGE CONRAD PETERSEN 1900-1978

George Conrad Petersen was born in Mauriceville West, Wairarapa, a pioneer settlement of predominately Danish immigrants. The sixth child in a family of six sons and two daughters, his parents were both Danish by birth. His father was Jens Peter Petersen, carpenter and farmer, who had emigrated from North Jutland as a young man of 18 in 1875, while his mother, Anna Katrine, nee Nielsen, also from Jutland, had been brought to New Zealand by her parents as a young child in 1872.

He was educated at the Mauriceville West Primary School and at the Masterton District High School. In 1916 he moved with his parents to Palmerston North where he worked as a law clerk and began studies in law. In 1923 he was admitted to the bar as a Barrister and Solicitor and for 48 years continued as a highly respected member of his profession.

In 1926 he married Miss Stella Cairns of Masterton, their family comprising of one son and two daughters. In 1966, three years after the death of his first wife, he married Mrs Coyla Foote who also predeceased him.

G.C. Petersen took a keen and practical interest in the history and development of the city of Palmerston North and its surrounding country district, many of whose early settlers were of Danish origin. A member of the City Council from 1947 to 1950 he later became historian to the city, writing "Pioneering Days of Palmerston North" and, commissioned by the City Council, "Palmerston North: A Centennial history".

The author of several historical works, two in particular have earned him the description of historian of Scandinavian settlement in New Zealand. "Forest Homes", published 1952, tells the story of the Scandinavian immigrants who came to New Zealand as part of Vogel's Public Works and Immigration scheme. In this book he vividly describes the struggles of his own people of the Wairarapa in their efforts to build homes and a new life for themselves and their families and the substantial contribution they made in developing this country.

"D.G. Monrad", published in 1966, gives an account of the famed Danish Bishop and Prime Minister who, falling into public disfavour after the loss of the Danish provinces of Schlesvig and Holstein in 1864, found it politic to come and live in New Zealand for some years. With his wife and family Monrad established a home at Karere, a few miles from Palmerston North, clearing the bush for farmland, introducing cattle and sheep, experimenting in the growing of tobacco, and encouraging many other Danes to emigrate to New Zealand.

In 1964, in recognition of his contribution to New Zealand history, Massey University awarded G.C. Petersen the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature.

Early in World War Two he played an active part in founding the Anglo-Danish Society of Palmerston North. Folk of Danish descent met regularly with the aim of raising money to send food and clothing to Denmark, invaded by the Nazis, and of encouraging the Danish people in this difficult time by assuring them they were not forgotten by Danes living overseas.

Though the purpose was serious, the members enjoyed the social interaction, singing Danish songs and eating food made from Danish recipes, while those who still had relatives in Denmark felt comforted and supported by joining with people of similar background.

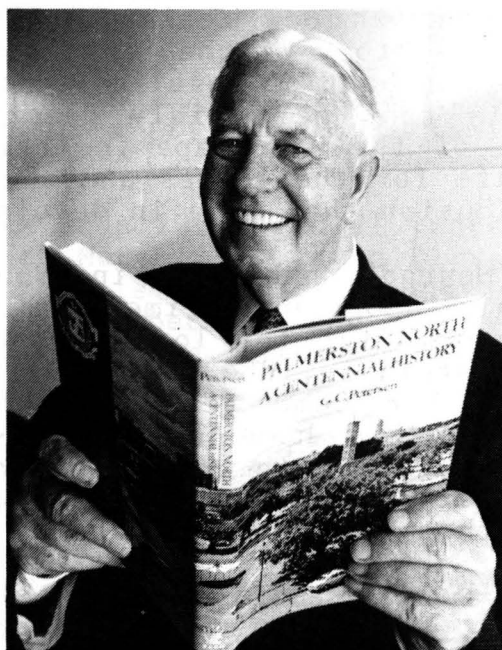
During this time also he was appointed Hon. Vice-Consul, later Consul, for Denmark. The Royal Danish Consulate in Wellington was closed during the war years, and he travelled to Wellington regularly to attend to essential diplomatic business.

The war over, professional diplomats were sent out for three-year terms, and Mr Petersen acted as a liaison to maintain continuity in periods of sometimes months between one holder of the office leaving and the new appointee arriving. Later, the Consulate having been elevated to Embassy status, he was frequently called upon for advice on local matters.

From his own office in Palmerston North he did much to assist new immigrants from Denmark, to advise on legal problems, and to entertain Danes visiting this country. He himself visited Denmark on four separate occasions. His kindness, imagination and understanding for the problems of others, and his long memory for the people he met and the conversation they had together, caused many to know him as their friend.

For the long years of honorary service given to Denmark G.C. Petersen was in 1958 made a Ridder af Dannebrog, and in 1968 this Order was raised to First Grade. Other Danish awards were the King Christian X Freedom Medal, the Medal of Liberation and the Galatea Medal.

Compiled by Wendy Cutfield and Phyllis Potter (his daughters)



Dr G. C. Petersen pictured with his book "A Centennial History" in November 1973. — Photo courtesy The Manawatu Evening Standard.

WOOD CHOPPING IN THE POHANGINA VALLEY 1928

My Grandfather Mr Alf Devantier and Mr Victor Christensen were close friends and workmates. At the time of my Grandfathers death in 1972, Mr Christensen wrote down various memories he had of their working days together. The following is a short edited extract from his writings. - Evelyn Schou

"It was in the first quarter of 1928 that Alf and I went to Komako to chop wood for Mr Fred Roberts.

Our working week began every Sunday afternoon when we would travel to our camp in the Pohangina Valley in Alf's Model T. He had paid Forty Pounds for the Ford and that car used to take us up and down the hills in top gear whereas the more expensive cars would groan and complain in low gear. The camp up there already had a tarpaulin stretched over a frame with a fire place and chimney at one end. Also a table. We pitched our tent at the other end and erected bunks on each side. This was our home away from home. Years earlier a huge rata had fallen down close to the camp. It was only a matter of cutting out the centre portion of its large root spread, fixing a few sheets of iron over the top, and Alf had a garage for his car. Two weeks later we had a terrible storm. Trees were blown across the road and a woolshed at Raumai had its roof torn off, but Alf's garage never budged.

Every week my wife would cook a roast of beef to pack in our food box. In that box we also had a rolled shoulder of bacon, six large loaves of bread, and of course plenty of potatoes from our gardens. Breakfast would be bacon and eggs. For lunch we cut our bread on the job and toasted it on the embers of the fire on which our billy had boiled. If you've ever enjoyed toast that way you'll know what a poor relation your electric toaster produces. Dinner at night consisted of cold meat and potatoes and sometimes other vegetables. Usually the six loaves of bread were just enough for the week but one Thursday Alf announced that the bread was finished. I reassured him that I could easily bake a damper even although we didn't have a camp oven. I said I'd cook it in the embers like I'd done in Australia. All I needed was a mountain of red embers. Well, Alf set to and soon had a massive fire burning with the help of an old stump - only trouble being, it was too good and set the gully on fire. Never mind, we soon put that out and I commenced to mix a big basin of flour and baking powder with water to make a very soft wet dough. I scraped a big hole in the middle of the embers, threw a layer of cold ashes into the frying pan, then a layer of flour, poured in the dough, another layer of flour and finished with a layer of cold ashes. I then raked hot embers over the top. At the end of 1 hour 20 minutes, it was cooked. Beautiful!! Mr Roberts' young son visited us the next day when we were slicing it. After we had finally persuaded him to try the damper he ate it with relish. Our cooking fame was soon known amongst the residents in the Valley!!

We never cut less than 16 cord of wood in any week and at Fifteen shillings a cord we made Twelve Pounds a week. However usually we cut $4\frac{1}{2}$ cord a day so our average was much more. In fine weather we'd get a flying start at 8 o'clock in the morning and knock off at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Alf and I never talked while working, merely because we concentrated on our work and found it interesting. It was only when it rained all day and came out fine at night that we would have tea early and go out and saw for a while in the evening. Alf had an acetylene lamp which allowed us to get our saws set straight on the wood. Then he would put the lamp out until the next cut. In the evenings we would give our saws a rub up in case they were dull. We believed that an axe was sharp if you could shave the hairs off your arm or leg. Good men needed good tools and we really thought we were good men. Bit of false pride perhaps. It was also in the evenings that we would have a good yarn and swap past experiences.

One thing I remember about Mr Roberts' place was the hundreds of small lizards. They were different from all the lizards I'd ever seen, and instead of being long and worm like, they were short and broad at the head end and tapered quickly. There were two colours - grey like the outside of a rata log, or a rich brown like matai when it starts to decay. The stones in the area had lichen growing on them and all those lizards whether grey or brown, were camouflaged with patterns of lichens all over their bodies. Some of the lichen on the stones had a bright red type of primitive flower in the centre. Well, those lizards also had the bright red camouflage on the side of their head. We thought they were a wonderful effort by nature to protect them from predators. One weekend we each took four or five home to show our children. When we were going back to camp on Sunday afternoon I said "What did you do with your lizards Alf? Alf bashfully said "Oh, I'm taking them back to let them go". I had to laugh because I also had a mind to liberate them in their old home too. They were happy little chaps and we saw no reason to interfere with their happiness.

During our time in the Pohangina Valley we worked on many farms doing fencing, post splitting etc and we were well known in the district. It was a time I remember with pleasure and I have enjoyed reliving my association with Alf. He was a wonderful worker and a delightful mate."

V.A. Christensen

(Footnote:- Mr Alf Devantier should not be confused with Mr Alfred Devantier (his uncle) mentioned in the Christian Vilhelm Hansen's Story).

EMIL HENNING JOHANSON and CAROLINA nee LUDVIGSEN

Although the Johanson family initially settled in the Wairarapa the next generation, Leo Johanson and his wife, farmed at Longburn from the 1930s. The author, Liz Johanson, is the granddaughter of this couple. Liz attends Palmerston North Girls High School.

Emil Henning Johanson was born on 6th July 1857 in Motala Parish, Ostergotland, Sweden and trained as a marine engineer. Two of his brothers were very successful steel engineers, building sky-scrappers in the United States, where they became millionaires. At some stage the pair changed their surname to 'Johnson', an act which was not approved of by their family and they were reputedly disowned, however the intention may simply have been to increase acceptance prospects in the eyes of their new countrymen. Emil's children were brought up however, to be very proud to be 'Johansons'.

Emil came to New Zealand as an engineer on a steamer in 1884, disembarking at Wellington. Described as an engineer, he found employment in the sawmilling industry in the Forty Mile Bush, gradually following the receding bush from Mt Bruce to Dannevirke. It was at Hamua, between Eketahuna and Pahiatua, that he met his future wife, Carolina Ludvigsen, (possibly) the daughter of Hans Johan Ludvigsen, a labourer of Hamua, who was born in Sarlov, Fyen, Denmark and naturalised, aged 61, on 24 September 1899. Carol was understood to have been five years old when she arrived in New Zealand, which would have been around 1875, her entry in the 1917 Register of Aliens, indicating 1876. On 17th October 1887, Emil married the seventeen year old Carol at Masterton, the couple then settling in Hamua and in due course had five children.

One memory of the dense bush at Hamua, was of a woman who had two miles of it between her home and her neighbour's. The block required five sawmills to process it. By about 1907 most of the bush had been felled and there was considerably less sawmilling work around. In 1912 the Johanson's took up farming, the family continuing to live at the same house in Hamua, however the farm proved unprofitable. Emil was described as a dairyfarmer in 1917.

The life of hard work by the family, was broken by incidents including that of one embarrassed young Scandinavian mother who went to Hamua's only store and frantically tried to relay what she wanted, while the shopkeeper tried to comprehend her request. In the end she had to rush next door to the Johanson's and ask Carol how to ask for a baby's dummy teat!

It would appear that Emil was never naturalised as a New Zealander, however both he and Caroline (sic) enrolled on the 1917 Register of Aliens, at Eketahuna, along with many other foreign-born New Zealanders. Emil died on 25th February 1924, at Wellington, aged 66. - *Contributed by Liz Johanson*

PN Girls High School

BRIEF HISTORY OF SCANDINAVIAN CLUBS IN MANAWATU

THE FIRST SCANDINAVIAN CLUB IN PALMERSTON NORTH 1914-1917

Just one week before Great Britain declared war against Germany (4th August 1914), the first Scandinavian Club was formed in Palmerston North. A report in the Evening Standard on the 3rd August 1914 describes their inaugural meeting.

"The latest addition to Palmerston's many such institutions is the formation of a Scandinavian Club, embracing as its members Norwegians, Swedes and Danes. This decision was arrived at by a meeting of natives of these countries held recently in the Opera House supper room. Mr L.G. West has been elected president of the Club."

Despite high hopes, and high ideals, this club was dissolved in 1917.



Members of the first Scandinavian Club raising funds to assist refugees during the First World War.

— Photo courtesy P.N. Public Library.



The N.Z. Anglo-Danish Society (Inc.)

National President: JOHANNES C. ANDERSEN, M.B.E. F.R.S.N.Z.

PALMERSTON BRANCH:
P.O. BOX 79
PALMERSTON NORTH

BOX 114, TE ARO.
WELLINGTON C.2.

PROGRAMME

1. DANISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

2. CHOIR

"I alle de Riger og Lande"

"Ser i hvem der kommer her"

"Lille Viggo vil du ride Ranke"

3. QUARTET - - - - - Christensens

4. PIANO ACCORDION - - - - - Mrs. Fraser

5. COMMUNITY SINGEN

6. SONG - - - - - Mr. Geo. Whitelock

7. DANCING DOLLS - - - - - Maigaard Familie

8. CHOIR

"Hoje Nord Friheds Hjem"

"Fuglen sit Oje lukker"

"Fred vhlir over Land og By"

9. CORNET SOLO - - - - - Master Maigaard

10. SONG - - - - - Mr. Du Freene

11. COMMUNITY SINGEN

12. GOD SAVE THE KING

A branch of the New Zealand Anglo Danish Society was formed in Palmerston North at the outbreak of World War II with Oscar Monrad as the president. It was a very active club which devoted a lot of time and energy to the War effort. Mr George Whitelock of Palmerston North who had a fine singing voice can remember the musical evenings which were often held in the members' own homes. The New Zealand Anglo-Danish Society's National headquarters in Wellington printed Danish song books which were used by the local choir. Mr Les Hansen of Ashhurst also recalls that as a pianist he was often called upon to give an item and vividly remembers the superb suppers that followed. As mentioned previously in this book the club members hosted many Danish visitors to this country. It is believed that the club disbanded in the late 1950s.

THE SECOND SCANDINAVIAN CLUB

The idea of the formation of the Scandinavian Club of the Manawatu probably had its origins back in March 1973 when a plaque to the early Scandinavian Settlers of the Wairarapa was unveiled at Mauriceville West. My father, the late E.M. (Ted) Mattson of Palmerston North, was instrumental in having the plaque erected and in so doing contacted as many folk of Scandinavian descent as was possible. A great number of these people were resident in the Manawatu and most of them were generally interested in their Scandinavian heritage. I was one of these and having assisted my father in the erection of the monument, my enthusiasm in genealogy increased and with it my interest in anything of a Scandinavian connection. I eventually came in contact with the late Malcolm (Mac) Larsen who was a genealogist with wide experience in Scandinavian research, particularly Norwegian. He was the founder of the New Zealand-Norway Society and of their magazine "Hovding" and was a tireless worker for anything Scandinavian. We had many discussions on the eventual forming of a Scandinavian Club in Palmerston North and by 1979 we felt the time was right to do something positive about it. I had kept a list of people in the area who had attended the Wairarapa event, and thus had a starting point to gather the amount of interest in the formation of such a club. The local papers were approached and a small amount of publicity by them, brought in a few more names. Notices were placed in Libraries, Museums, Schools, etc. With plenty of enthusiasm but a little bit of nervousness, Mac and I planned a Wine and Cheese evening to be held at my home, 43 Waterloo Crescent, Palmerston North, on Friday, 22nd June, 1979. We expected perhaps 30-35 people, so were delighted when just on 60 people squeezed themselves into my small lounge. What was lacking in space was made up for in keenness among everyone to get on with planning future activities around our mutual interests. A Committee was therefore formed to "plan future cultural, historical and social activities". - *Barbara Shute (formerly Durham)*

It is now eleven years since the club was formed and we have endeavoured to keep to the ideals set down by the first Committee. Therefore "Skandia 1990" week which starts on 24th November 1990 features cultural and social activities - the historical concept is the printing of this book which we hope will highlight the important role Scandinavian settlers played in the growth of Manawatu.



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Errata

(Introduction Page, para 1) Snelson's Store was not built until after the arrival of the *England* passengers in April 1871. See *Skandia II* pp. 21 26-7
 (pg 5, para 1) Andrew Jonson died a month before the 'Alien Register' was begun. The entry referred to here was for another man with the same name. See *Skandia II* pp. 142-6. Also the third item of the bibliography should read Andrew

Jonson not Andrew Seabury.
 (pg 6, para 2) Bismark should be Bismarck.
 (pg 7, para 2) KDC is Karere Dairy Company.
 (pg 11 and 12) Some quotes attributed here to Anders Ihle prove to have been someone else's, probably C.A. Bergersen who had a son the right age. See *Skandia II* pp. 11-8 42-3 52-5
 (pg 13, para 1) Ballast pit, not "pin".
 (pg 18, para 2) Annie Anderson's account proved to have been Arne Arnesen Kjolstad's. (para 3) Bosen should be Boesen.
 (para 4) "Avenue" should be "now Aokautere".
 (pg 19, para 6) Carl died 14 December 1907. His headstone is incorrect. See *Skandia II*, pp. 39-40.
 (pg 20, para 4) Last sentence omitted. It should read: "However, this is incorrect...." See *Skandia II*, pp. 47-8.
 (pg 21, para 5) The property was sold the same year, not the following year. (para 6) Calvert is in Block 49, Plot 6, not the Public Reserve.
 (pg 24, para 4) "gloves" should be "socks".
 (pg 25, para 1) The Hoffman Kiln was built around 1904. It was purchased by Brick & Pipes Ltd. in 1918. See *Palmerston North City Heritage Trail* (PNCC, 1993). pp. 2 57-61
 (pg 27) Kindberg's background omitted. See *Skandia II*, p. 77
 (pg 29, para 3) "Humbolt" should be "Humboldt". The baby's name remains unknown. Possibly "sangl" indicates the German word "saugling" meaning suckling, as the ship was German and sailed from Hamburg. The couple had a baby, Christina, who died aged 11 months on 10 March 1876. This indicates that Karen was about six months pregnant when the *Humboldt* reached New Zealand. Karen's maiden name is recorded on the child's death certificate as Mortensen. See *Skandia II*, index
 (pg 30, para 2) *Humbolt* should be *Humboldt*. (para 5) Probably the forests Christian felled were not Kauri, unless he was at the north of the country.
 (pg 35, para 1) Julius arrived on the *Lammershagen* and Christina on the *Humboldt*.
 (pg 48) The *Hawkes Bay Herald* 2/11/1893 2(7) describes a ball held to help pay H.P. Fabrin's bill following a 26 week hospital stay after his amputation.
 (pg 55) Probably Boman arrived at Wellington on the *Glenmark* on 1/1/1901. (re: Shipping Records No SS ¼ 75, National Archives)
 (pg 56, para 1) "Mor" Lauridsen was formerly Martha Charlotte Pedersen.

Footnote: Also published by the Scandinavian Club of the Manawatu: *Mosquitoes & Sawdust: a history of Scandinavians in early Palmerston North & surrounding districts (Skandia II)*, written by Val Burr and first published in 1995.

At 167 pages and with numerous photos and maps, *Mosquitoes & Sawdust* contains an overview of migration both out of Scandinavia and into New Zealand. It also includes a detailed study of the immigrants - collectively and as individual families - who arrived on the *Celaeno* and *England* in 1871. These people became the key part of the only planned immigration scheme to send settlers to the new bush 'town' of Palmerston North. It also looks at other families and topics, including sawmilling, religion and the First World War home front experience of Scandinavians. While focusing on the Scandinavian contribution to the establishment of Manawatu, the book also deals with settlement around the lower North Island.

Mosquitoes and Sawdust is available from the Scandinavian Club of the Manawatu, P.O. Box 84, Palmerston North, and selected retail outlets.

Also by the same author is *A Time of Transition: Whakarongo School & District twelve decades on* (published by the Whakarongo School & District 120th Jubilee Committee, 1999). This 124-page book looks at the progress of the Stoney Creek Scandinavian & Roadmen's Block since its establishment. A thematic history, it focuses on the early years, the railways, the dairy industry and social history surrounding the school's buildings and features. It especially concentrates on the sometimes controversial history of the 'old school building' that Danish-born Carl Emil Jorgensen built in 1877. For further information contact the author c/- the above address or c/- Whakarongo School, Stoney Creek Rd., R.D. 10, Palmerston North.



This photo proves that even after twelve decades, Scandinavians can still have a dramatic effect on the Manawatu landscape. Certainly the Tararua Wind Farm, atop the distant Tararua Ranges, makes an unusual backdrop to houses sited on the northern border of the former Stoney Creek Scandinavian Block. The houses front Kelvin Grove Road, between Roberts Line and James Line. Officially opened on 22 June 1999, the Tararua Wind Farm is the largest in the southern hemisphere, containing 48 Danish-built Vestas-V47 turbines and having the potential to accommodate up to 103 turbines. The turbines for the \$50 million venture were supplied by Vestas-Danish Wind Technology A/S and Vestas Wind Systems A/S, the latter company being the largest manufacturer of wind turbines in the world. Vestas considers the site one of the best in the world, and describes 'the wind farm' as the "showcase of the Pacific." This wind farm is also considered unique in that it is probably the first large-scale wind farm built in the world without subsidies or incentives. Palmerston North-based CentralPower Ltd. built the wind farm, however, changes to government legislation in 1998 saw the company forced to sell it as soon as construction was complete. It is now owned by Tauranga-based TrustPower Ltd. (Photo: Russell Burr, Palmerston North, May-June 1999. Tararua Wind Farm information from Evening Standard 21/6/1999 [pp. 1 & 15], 22/6/1999 [p. 1 & 3], 24/6/1999 [p. 2])

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